



Foodie fest on the table

From left, Karl Kanetani (Beach Byron Bay), Alex Taylor (Caper Festival founder and director), Darren Robertson (Three Blue Ducks), Louis Tikaram (Stanley Brisbane, festival's food curator), Jedd Rifai (North Byron Hotel), Abbie Gibson (Caper's creative director) and MasterChef semi-finalist, Mindy Woods (Karkalla Restaurant). Photo 'Caped Culinary Crusader' Dawson

Food and culture takes centre stage this week, as Caper Byron Bay Food & Culture Festival returns May 17 to 26.

Director Alex Taylor says, 'The ten-day festival is a foray through Byron Shire's food, drink, music, wellness, art, community, and

entertainment, with over 20 ticketed and free events. Events include beachside long lunches, a yakitori party at Wandana Brewing, fire cooked dinners with chefs flown in from interstate, and an aperitivo evening and a restaurant take-over

at Brunswick Picture House. There is a free family event on May 25 at the North Byron Hotel (the official watering hole and festival hub) with kids entertainment, pony rides and fun for everyone!'. For more info, visit caperbyronbay.com.

Crime 'cluster' spikes spread across region

Paul Bibby

Local police are calling on residents to keep their doors and windows locked, including when they're at home, in a bid to address the spike in car break-ins and thefts taking place in and around local shires.

With scores of locals from Lennox to Pottsville having been impacted by a series of crime spikes over the past four months, Detective

Chief Inspector Matt Kehoe from Tweed-Byron police said the best thing locals could do to protect themselves was to always lock up.

'A lot of these incidents seem to have a pattern, where the offender is entering the home to steal the car keys through an open door or window, and then stealing the car which they then use to undertake further offences,' Inspector Kehoe told *The Echo*.

'More than 90 per cent of the time, it's a door or window that's been left open, and they come in even if people are there.

'They won't go to the effort of smashing a door or forcing a window... It'll all be done very quietly. That's why we're asking everyone to make sure that we lock our doors and windows all the time, whether you're home or not.'

► Continued on page 3

Let's dive deep into potholes!

Main Arm meeting with Council staff reveals state of rural road repairs

Hans Lovejoy

Main Arm residents were disappointed to hear from Byron Council's senior staff at a public meeting last Thursday night that their dangerous and rapidly deteriorating roads might not get repaired until the end of 2025 at the earliest.

The open and frank discussion at Kohinur Hall between Council staff and residents revealed the complex, confusing and ever-changing bureaucracy that hampers restoring, maintaining or improving the shire's crumbling road network.

The event was hosted by Main Arm Disaster Recovery (MADR).

Residents say they were informed by Council that a previous state government funding application under the NSW Betterment Program for Main Arm Road had not been successful, despite the clear evidence that the road is becoming undriveable. Other valleys such as Wilsons Creek were successful in the grants.

Crews unable to keep up

The meeting also highlighted an inadequate roads budget for the entire shire, and road crews were unable to keep up with the estimated 609km road network.

Only one councillor, Duncan Dey (Greens), was present as an audience member. He is not recontesting

the September election.

Residents reminded Council staff of the dangerously unacceptable conditions, and questioned why road maintenance was virtually non-existent, given it has been over two years since the 2022 floods.

And of the roadworks undertaken in recent times, residents said that they were not a long-term solution, and questioned its value for money.

Director, Infrastructure Services, Phil Holloway, opened the night with an acknowledgement that Council could do better with its communication with the public over how it manages roads and infrastructure.

Reliant on grants

He shared his frustrations that applying for grants was time consuming and did not lead to better outcomes. Council's yearly budget contributes very little towards the huge task of fixing the shire's roads, and Council is largely reliant on government grants.

Holloway later told *The Echo* that Council is waiting on approval of more than \$14m of 2022 flood grants, with the application being extended until December 2024.

'We are sick and tired of seeing the same infrastructure getting damaged', Holloway told the meeting.

► Continued on page 2

Chris Dewhirst's role in Chile's 9/11 ► p5

Big tech, porn, violence and young blokes ► p8

What's that smell? Oh, it's Labor's gas policy ► p7, 13

Bangalow's bilycarts ready to roll this Sunday ► p16

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Let's dive deep into pothole repairs

► Continued from page 1

He told the meeting that he had been in the job for 16 years, and that the damage bill from 2022 floods was \$330m, compared to the previous 2017 disaster that cost \$20m in repairs.

Holloway said the road network was part of discussions around a rate rise a few years ago, called a Special Rate Variation (SRV).

He said while staff advocated for a rise to maintain the road network, that path was not chosen by councillors at the time. 'They went with 7.5 per cent'.

Council's Manager Infrastructure Recovery, Evan Elford, told residents that the process to receive funding from the state government includes providing before and after photos of every piece of road, bridge or culvert. Yet some of the 'before' information/photos do not exist.

Additionally, it was revealed that state bureaucrats send project proposals back to Council for adjustment, without formally rejecting them, and Council, 'cannot appeal until an actual decision is made'.

Roads budget breakdown

According to the *Draft 2024-25 Detailed Budget (now on exhibition)*, the budget for rural roads for the entire shire (page 7), is estimated to be \$2,270,783 for 2024/25.

By comparison, the 2024-25 urban road budget (page 6) is: Byron Bay/Suffolk Park (\$254,930), Mullumbimby (\$694,460), Bangalow (\$1,145,700), Brunswick Heads (\$291,764), Ocean Shores (\$132,537), and Batson Quarry (\$31,702).

Failure of processes

In a frank admission of the failure of government processes, Mr Elford said, 'The NSW government said they would build back better, but we are building back exactly as before'.

Sam Frumpui, Manager Works, acknowledged that Council road maintenance crews - there are two - had been in the area twice in the last financial year, which cost around \$200,000 to \$300,000.

He said there was a budget of just \$195,000 per year for rural drainage, while around \$2m per year is pegged for rural road maintenance.

Additionally, he said that extra approvals are needed from NSW Fisheries to clear blocked causeways.

Resident Matthew Lambourne made the point that he has repeatedly cleared culverts and drains and rung Council to remove the debris, but has not been replied to.

As a result, the debris goes back and gets stuck again in the next rain.

And given the new walking trails are attracting visitors to the area, Holloway was asked whether NSW National Parks were asked to contribute for road funding, to which he said 'no'.

Local state MP, Tamara

Smith later told *The Echo* that NSW National Parks are not required to do so.

Smith told residents via speaker phone at the meeting that she believes the new CEO of the Reconstruction Authority, Mal Lanyon, may be amenable to providing the much needed \$8m in funds to address a section of Main Arm Road.

She also encouraged lobbying federal MP Justine Elliot (Labor) on the matter, given road grants are also administered by her government.

One resident later told *The Echo* that 'Main Arm was the first to be targeted for illegal dwellings, and is the last to get its roads fixed'.

\$25m in grants

Council staff say that \$25m in grant applications have been submitted for Main Arm Valley alone.

They are for 18 causeways (\$9,154,245), road pavements (\$4,467,736), Coopers Lane's culvert (\$565,254), landslip funding (\$3m) and Betterment funding (\$8m).

Save Wallum protectors escape fines, convictions

Seven Save Wallum protectors charged with locking on and obstructing civil works at the contentious urban Brunswick Heads development had their cases dismissed in the Byron Local Court on Monday, with no fines and no convictions recorded.

Large development company, Clarence Property, are facing organised non-violent resistance to their plans, which were approved by the Northern Regional Planning Panel and Byron Council.

The credibility of the process that led to approval, along with claims by Clarence Property that it will be an ecologically sensitive development, is disputed.

According to a statement by Save Wallum's Holly Galbrait, it is 'a pivotal moment in the steadfast and peaceful vigil at the site of the contentious Wallum housing development'.

She said, 'Heavy machinery and riot police descended on protectors on April 17, resulting in the arrest of 19 individuals, but this decision has turned the tide'.

'Led by local lawyer

Cassandra Bennet, who graciously offered her services pro bono, six matters were finalised with guilty pleas submitted. Remarkably, the presiding magistrate exercised discretion under Section 10 of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*, issuing all six a non-conviction and no fine.

Significant ruling

'The significance of this ruling cannot be overstated.'

'Section 10 underscores the court's recognition of the protectors' genuine intentions and unwavering dedication to their cause. With a Section 10(1)(a) order dismissing the charges, the court affirmed the rightfulness of their actions.'

'While one matter remains pending until June 5, the outcome is a testament to the power of collective action and the resilience of communities in the face of zombie developments', she said.

One group member who faced the court said, 'Let this serve as a reminder that when we unite to defend what's sacred, we are unstoppable.'



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Mullum Road upgrade

Construction is expected to commence in December to improve the flood-prone Mullumbimby Road near Uncle Tom's corner.

Federal Member for Richmond Justine Elliot, said in a media release that Council were successful in a grant of \$2.77 million from the jointly funded Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package

She said, 'Council has also been allocated an additional \$1.99 million through the jointly funded DRFA for heavy patching on the road'.

'The funding will ensure the road is rebuilt stronger and is better able to withstand future weather events.'

'Mullumbimby Road, which is the major evacuation route for local residents, is currently very susceptible to flooding', she says.

Byron celebrates its Kulcha



Multikulcha Festival organiser, Judith Shelley, says last Sunday's Byron event was a great success, with a great turnout for performances that showcased the richness and diversity of many cultures of Byron Shire. Pictured are Nigel Stewart, Greg Sheehan, Anna Freeman, Bronze, Tui Leleisiua and Levi Stewart. Photo Jeff 'Kulchered With A C' Dawson

Crime 'cluster' spikes spread across region

► Continued from page 1
Not like the '70s/'80s

'I know that we'd like things to go back to the way they were back in the '70s or '80s, when no one locked their cars or their houses, but unfortunately that's not safe anymore.'

Inspector Kehoe said that police were seeing 'spikes' in certain offences which were clustered together by location.

'It's linked to offenders coming in from outside our district,' he said.

'They're coming here from the Lismore or Ballina area, committing offences and then returning there. We

know, because some of the vehicles have been recovered in those areas, and because there's finger prints and DNA that matches with known offenders from those areas.

Affluent targets

'Perhaps there's a view among the offenders that there's more affluent targets around here than what they can get around Lismore, Alstonville, Goonellabah... so they're moving further afield.'

Among the locations being particularly affected were the suburbs in the northern part of the Byron Shire, including Ocean Shores, Brunswick Heads,

New Brighton, and South Golden Beach.

In the 15 days to May 10, locals in these suburbs had reported three stolen motor vehicles, two instances of stealing from a motor vehicle and two instances of stealing property from a private residence.

Local social media pages have been awash with reports of car thefts and stealing incidents, including some calling for more action from police.

'I have spoken to many people, and there are a lot of other cars being taken,' said one local, whose car had recently been stolen.

'The police, seem to have

little interest and/or not the right tools and resources, so it's down to us to help our friends and the community.'

Police shortages

Inspector Kehoe denied that police were disinterested, but acknowledged that the Tweed-Byron police district was 'not immune' to the police shortages being experienced state-wide.

'It certainly has an impact on the staff who are here,' he said. 'It means that they're purely responding to crime, rather than doing some of that follow-up work, such as targeting particular offending and hotspots.'

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Housing prices impacted by natural disasters

Staff reporters

The region has seen falling house prices, new data from CoreLogic suggests.

They say the area stretching from Richmond Valley to the Tweed accounted for ten of the bottom 20 suburbs for house price increases across the whole country over the past two years, and five of the bottom 20 suburbs for weakest rise in unit values.

Tim Lawless, Core Logic's head of research, says that natural disasters affecting the region had undoubtedly contributed to the falls, along with a 'natural correction' following the rarefied highs reached during the covid-induced mass migration of 2020-21.

Mullumbimby was the second-worst-performing market in the country, falling 27.1 per cent between April 2022 and April 2024.

This result was only slightly better than that recorded in South Lismore, which saw a 31.2 per cent fall in prices. Not far behind was Bangalow, which recorded a fall of 25.9 per cent, Ocean Shores (-22.3 per cent), Suffolk Park (-21.2 per cent) and



Mullum in the 2022 floods. Photo Orion Sturch

Brunswick Heads (-20.1 per cent). Byron Bay also featured in the bottom 20 list, recording a fall of 18.3 per cent.

Price correction

Realtor Mark Cochrane, from North Coast Lifestyle Properties, supports the view, and told *The Echo*, 'There's no doubt in my mind that the current correction in Byron Shire of between 20 per cent and 25 per cent has multifactorial causation'.

'The three issues are flood impact, rising interest rates and what I call a "communal consciousness of caution".'

The result of the last-mentioned issue is a huge downturn in buyer enquiry,

and consequent fall in the volume of sales being negotiated. Sales numbers are currently lower in Byron Shire than at any time in the last decade.

'The real estate market, just like the share market, is driven by "sentiment", and sentiment is currently being affected by the natural disaster recently inflicted on us, with the 2022 major storm event.'

'The first question a buyer has right now is, "Did this property flood"? This issue is top of mind, unless of course the house is on top of a hill, in which case it's "Have there been any slips nearby"? 'Caution prevails!

'The quantum of this impact on value varies in every case. Weatherboard houses that can be raised suffer less than brick homes that can't be raised.'

'Naturally, houses that didn't flood are holding their value much better.'

'One of the less mentioned impacts that climate change and the resulting floods have had is the impact on "insurability".'

'Many insurance companies will simply not quote for business in flood-affected towns, even if you don't want flood cover, and premiums have skyrocketed. This indirectly impacts on the market as well, because of this extra cost imposition.'

'Also worthy of mention is the increasing cost of construction to comply with local government's stricter building requirements, as a result of climate change impacts.'

'In the long term, it is in everyone's interests to adapt, as we must to lessen both the financial and emotional stress that natural disasters impose on us, and at the same time, never forget that we live in the best part of the best country in the world', Cochrane said.

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Contraband, Chile's 9/11 and black ops

Chris Dewhirst releases account of his involvement with the CIA in the '70s

Hans Lovejoy

Putting the life of local adventurer Chris Dewhirst into print would be no easy task. But he's managed to do it, in part, with *Everest Guns & Money*.

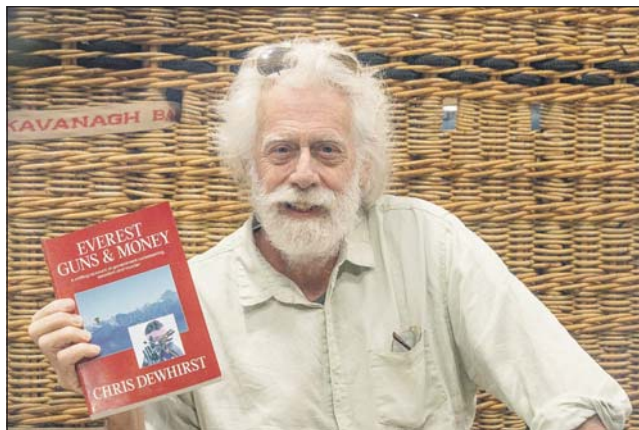
For those unfamiliar with Chris, he helped to establish commercial hot air ballooning in Australia in 1980, and Byron Bay Ballooning in 2005.

But that's not all, because from a young age Chris was breaking rock climbing records. In 1972, he helped to introduce commercial rafting to Tassie's Franklin River.

His record-breaking habits have continued throughout his life; in 1991, in his second attempt, Chris was part of a crew that made the first successful hot air balloon flight over Mount Everest.

But as his book title, *Everest Guns & Money* suggests, Chris explores another part of his life – his relationships with those involved in the CIA operation that helped destroy and overthrow Chile's democratically elected government on September 11, 1973.

Michael Balson describes the book as the 'best



Chris Dewhirst. Photo Jeff 'Hot Hairs' Dawson

page-turning memoir I've ever read'.

Balson's review of the book says in part, 'The story begins in a blizzard at 2,500 feet, on El Capitan in Yosemite California, when Dewhirst hears an aircraft lose power. The inevitable crash, not only kills the aircrew, but also changes the lives of the four climbers who find the wreck. And therein lies a story of avarice and opportunity'.

Kissinger's role

'Dewhirst's memoir is woven through that of his friend and mentor, US Air Force pilot, Colonel Al Morgan, who reveals how

Henry Kissinger ordered the execution of General René Schneider, Chile's head of the military. Schneider supported President Allende's democratically elected government, and opposed the US control of Chile's copper mines.

'Morgan delivered the assassination weapons in a diplomatic bag to the CIA at the US embassy in Santiago.

'With Schneider dead, General Pinochet seized power and launched his coup killing thousands of citizens, including the president and his government.

'A month after the coup, in October 1973, we find Dewhirst and Colonel

Morgan, unlikely friends, air-lifting a load of M16s to Colonel Manuel Noriega in Panama, destined for Chile – and returning with 100 kilos of cocaine and three tons of cannabis'.

And while Balson says Dewhirst is groomed by the CIA's black ops manager to take over from Morgan, he finds his conscience after meeting his future wife and spy, Bree Martinez at one of the regular dinners with the notorious Noriega. Under Bree's influence, he sabotages the weapons destined for Santiago.

Chris says, 'Although *Everest, Guns & Money* has been written in the first person – and dramatised for entertainment – it still retains all the factual elements divulged by Colonel Morgan, during our multiple helicopter runs in the autumn of 1973'.

Launched June 6

Chris says all profits from his book will go to ReForest Now. The book will be launched at The Book Room in Byron on June 6 from 6pm. Reservations can be made via everestgunsandmoney.com.au.

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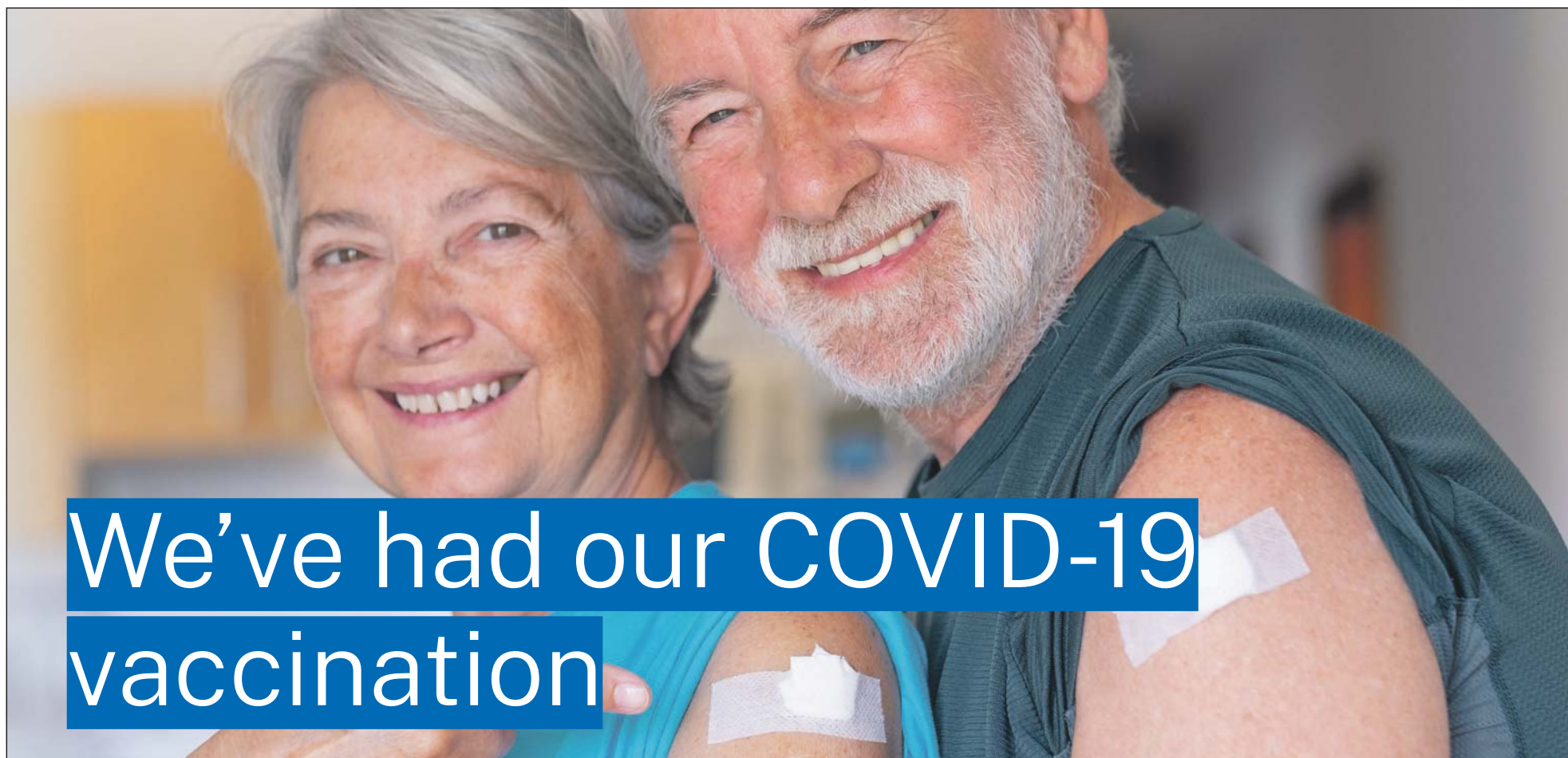
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News from across the North Coast online ► www.echo.net.au

Another fire ant nest eradicated at South Murwillumbah

A new fire ant nest was identified at South Murwillumbah and was confirmed and eradicated yesterday by the NSW Government and National Fire Ant Eradication Program teams.

From gumboot throwing to a gnome known as Costa

Permaculture is the foundation of the 30th anniversary weekend celebrations at the Djanbung Gardens over the weekend of May 25-26.

Changed overnight traffic conditions at Tugun bypass, Tweed Heads

Detours will be in place overnight for southbound traffic around Tugun bypass at Tweed Heads starting Sunday, May 12.

Protests take aim at Labor's coal and gas project approvals

As part of national 'Rise Up' protests against fossil fuel impacts on climate, activists in Tweed Heads and across the country are calling on the Albanese government to stop approving new coal and gas projects.

No more video meetings on the go for Ballina Shire Councillors

Dodgy reception and dangerous driving have been cited as concerns prompting a recent majority Ballina Shire Council vote to ban members attending meetings by video in a moving car.

Labor NSW spruiks healthcare worker incentives as QLD continues to poach

More than a thousand nursing graduates and students have received offers under Labor's NSW Tertiary Health Study Subsidy Program as part of state efforts to counter staff shortages.

www.echo.net.au

White spot detected in prawns off Ballina

White spot syndrome virus (WSSV) has been detected by scientists in wild-caught school prawns from the inshore ocean area off the Richmond River estuary near Ballina.



A prawn with white spot. Photo www.watercareer.com.au

According to the Queensland government, 'white spot disease is a highly contagious viral infection that affects crustaceans such as prawns, yabbies and crabs. When found in high intensity production areas, such as prawn farms, white spot disease results in the rapid mortality of prawns.'

The NSW government's biosecurity response arrangements have been activated and have established a control zone prohibiting the movement of raw product, including all decapod crustaceans and polychaete worms, but excluding high value lobster, crabs and bugs destined for human consumption.

Safe to eat

White spot does not pose a threat to human health or food safety. NSW seafood, including prawns, remains safe to eat.

'The community can rest assured this discovery of white spot syndrome virus in samples of wild-caught school prawns off Ballina is not a health risk and NSW seafood is safe to eat,' said NSW Minister for Agriculture, Tara Moriarty.

Prawn fishers can continue to catch prawns in the control zone but all prawns must be cooked to deactivate the virus

before they can be moved into markets.

The control zone restricts the movement of green, uncooked, school and king prawns and other decapod crustaceans, including polychaete worms out of the area.

The government is excluding the mud, blue swimmer, three spot and spanner crabs, lobsters and bugs from the movement restrictions, as these species are solely used for human consumption and do not present a risk of being reintroduced to other waterways.

'This routine testing is part of the national white spot surveillance program, which began in 2017 following the white spot outbreak in South East Queensland. Genetic testing is being conducted to confirm the DNA of the WSSV collected near Ballina to check if there are any relationships with previous detections in Queensland and NSW,' they stated.

A previous WSSV occurred in three northern NSW prawn farms in early 2023 and on-farm white spot eradication activities were finalised in early October 2023 according to the Department of Primary Industries.

Illegal development at Fingal Head given more time

Aslan Shand

For three years Tweed Shire Council and the new owners of the Fingal Head general store, currently closed, have been negotiating to resolve the illegal development that was built at 50 Main Road, Fingal Head in 2021.

The owners were required to stop building at the site following complaints and subsequent investigation in September 2021. The 'new land owner was advised to lodge a DA to seek consent for, and regulate, illegal works and deal with the use of the premises,' according to the staff report.

The new owners were seeking to change the use to primarily become Cubby's main bakery. Following the investigation the landowner confirmed a commitment to offer a general store.

Staff had recommended that the DA be refused as the owner had failed to present a DA that would be permissible at the site and in the residential area of Fingal Head.

Tweed Councillor Meredith Dennis said she was particularly disappointed with the DA.

'We did attend a site visit and basically the commercial

bakery has already been built, there's massive ovens, huge big pastry mixers, and various other bits and pieces,' she said.

Councillors James Owen and Rhiannon Brinsmead put forward a deferral of the decision with Cr Owen saying that he believed the proponent, Mr Chook Fingal Pty Ltd, had received planning advice from their advisors, not Council, that 'hasn't stood them in good stead'.

Cr Dr Nola Firth highlighted that the food preparation area had increased by 676 per cent, the operating hours began at 4am which was not allowed in a residential area.

Mayor Chris Cherry put forward an amendment for refusal seconded by Cr Dennis. Cr Cherry highlighted that staff had been trying to work with the illegal developer to find a solution for three years and that they had not been able to achieve one. She also pointed out that the proponent could open the general store at any time as they had existing permission for this use.

Residential zone

'What this DA is about is authorising the works that

have gone on and being done without approval to really intensify the activities of the business and to change the nature of the business in a lot of ways,' said Cr Cherry.

'Unfortunately, the issues that the staff have raised in terms of permissibility is the crux of this matter. This is a zone where people are living right next door. It's not a commercial zone.

'I understand where Councillor Owen is coming from with his motion to defer and the plain truth is that we've had three years to negotiate. We've had three years for this proponent to come to the table and say, "okay, we won't do the commercial outside deliveries, the early start openings". And they haven't chosen to do that.'

The amendment was lost with Crs Owen, Brinsmead, Polgalse and Byrnes voting against.

The motion to defer the decision was supported and the decision may well now come before the next council that will be elected in September.

■ Read full story in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au.

Ballina Council delays Sharpes Beach redevelopment

David Lowe

At the eleventh hour, Ballina Shire Council has voted to press pause on the controversial Sharpes Beach car park redevelopment, and seek further options.

Cr Phil Meehan's motion to accept the proposed redevelopment concept plan, seconded eventually by Mayor Sharon Cadwallader, didn't find the support expected from other councillors.

The plan has already been exhibited, with a wide range of views from the public

documented, many hostile to the proposed changes to the existing car park, which is currently unsealed and lacks toilet facilities.

Cr Meehan said 50 per cent of respondents were in favour of the new plan, with those opposed concerned with the loss of Norfolk Island pines, as well as the proposed car parking numbers and arrangements.

He argued that the concept master plan developed by Ballina Council was 'sympathetic to the coastal environment' and to 'people's

vision' of the area, with the need to approve the design in the near future, in order to access government grant monies so that construction could begin in 2025.

Cr Bruem said he was concerned about the number of Norfolk Island pines that would need to be removed (nine altogether).

After more circular argument, Crs Kiri Dicker and Eva Ramsey proposed that the matter be deferred, pending a report on further options.

■ Read full story in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au.



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The Echo acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of this land and extends respect to elders past, present and future.

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'The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' - Finley Peter Dunne 1867-1936

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Local Labor MP supports Future Gas Strategy

Hans Lovejoy

Climate research scientist, Joelle Gergis, has joined other scientists, academics, think tanks and economists in condemning federal Labor's Future Gas Strategy, which was released last week.

The Business Council of Australia has welcomed the government's strategy, which places gas as an important energy fuel 'through to 2050 and beyond'.

Yet critics say that Labor, like the coalition, are captured by the fossil fuel sector, which is mainly foreign-owned, pays little to no tax, and enjoys generous government handouts.

In the same week, the European Union's climate change monitoring service, Copernicus, reported that April was the hottest April on record globally, extending an 11-month streak where every month had set a temperature record.

The Guardian reported on May 8, 'Many of the scientists envisage a "semi-dystopian" future, with famines, conflicts and mass migration, driven by heatwaves, wildfires, floods and storms

of an intensity and frequency far beyond those that have already struck'.

Local federal Labor MP, Justine Elliot, was asked, 'Are you concerned that Labor, like the coalition, is captured by large fossil fuel corporations, given the climate science advice is at odds with the Future Gas Strategy?'

No reservation policy

'And, are you concerned that a Domestic Gas Reservation Policy wasn't included in this strategy, given it would ensure cheaper prices for residents?'

She instead replied, 'After ten years of neglect by the Liberals and Nationals, the Albanese government is now investing billions to roll out the renewable energy projects that are creating a clean energy future. Until renewables are at sufficient scale, we will need a mix of reliable and affordable energy sources to power our homes and our industries'.

'We have released our gas strategy to establish the role gas will play in the transition to net zero by 2050, securing affordable gas for Australia as we move to a more renewable grid.

'To meet our climate targets, we need more renewables – and for the moment we need gas to get us there. The emissions from gas are being managed and reduced, primarily through the Safeguard Mechanism.

'The Future Gas Strategy does not invest in gas supply or projects. Overwhelmingly, our focus is on adding new renewable energy to the grid. Gas is playing a role as our economy transitions, but the sooner Australia gets to 100 per cent renewable energy, the better'.

Mrs Elliot added in contrast the Liberals and Nationals 'don't believe in climate change', and 'their only solution now is to build nuclear reactors all over the country'.

Betrayal of future generations

Ms Gergis told *The Echo* Labor's policy was a 'betrayal of future generations'.

Ms Gergis said, 'Labor's gas policy is completely inconsistent with what the science says we need to do to stabilise the Earth's climate. Methane is a very powerful greenhouse gas,

that will lock in dangerous levels of global warming for decades to come'.

Carbon capture?

'We cannot rely on non-existent carbon capture and storage and short-term carbon offset projects to soak up emissions from the continued burning of fossil fuels. We need to stop making the very serious problems we are already facing even worse.

'Continuing to invest in fossil fuels diverts investment away from renewable energy technology, which is now the cheapest and cleanest form of energy.

'This policy is a regressive, cowardly move from Labor that tells voters they are not serious about addressing climate change at the pace and scale required by the science. Expanding fossil production during a climate emergency is unforgivable betrayal of future generations.

■ Ms Gergis's *Quarterly Essay*, titled 'Highway to hell: Climate Change and Australia's Future', will be released on June 3.

■ See David Lowe's comment on page 13.

Pod village resident evicted



Mullumbimby Pod Village. Photo Aslan Shand

David Lowe

The Echo understands a young man with multiple sclerosis (MS) and ongoing flood trauma has been evicted from the Mullumbimby Pod Village, amid claims that administrators are not qualified to handle people with complex health issues.

The Echo also understands the man was offered temporary motel accommodation as an emergency stopgap.

Carol McElhinney is the man's aunt, and the registered nominee for his NDIS plan, who also works in the disability field. She says there has been an 'ongoing battle' with management of the pod village over her nephew, which she says stems from the facility's inability to handle people suffering

trauma and other issues.

Ms McElhinney told *The Echo* the problem began when her nephew requested to change to a more shaded pod, as people with MS have difficulty controlling body temperature. When this request was refused, owing to the rigidity of the rules, it led to the man becoming frustrated and angry.

Since then, he's had a series of breaches 'for being upset', leading to more stress and more complaints, particularly from onsite security. She says those in charge lack the required expertise to deal with the situation, with a need for allied health professionals on site.

The Echo has sought comment from the Regional Manager at Northern Rivers Housing, James Robinson-Gale, but no reply has been received.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #49 • May 15, 2024

Just another unjust moment in history

Justice has been served and it's a shit sandwich: whistleblower David McBride is now the first person to be sentenced to jail in Australia for reporting war crimes.

While his lawyers say he will appeal, McBride's sentence on Tuesday was for five years and eight months.

By all accounts, McBride tried to do the right thing. As a military lawyer, he raised his concerns of Afghan war crimes internally.

After being ignored, he went to the ABC. Ironically, journalist Dan Oakes was later awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for 'service to journalism' for his work on the *Afghan Files*.

Federal Labor could have intervened with McBride – as it did for another high profile whistleblower and former ACT Attorney-General, Bernard Collaery.

Labor Attorney-General, Mark Dreyfus QC, discontinued Collaery's case using his power under the *Judiciary Act 1903* in early July 2022.

So why didn't Dreyfus do the right thing, and drop the case against McBride?

The Collaery intervention was perhaps driven less by doing the right thing, and more about containing political damage.

The ACT Court of Appeal ruled against holding Collaery's trial in secret, so allowing the prosecution to continue would have required admitting in open court that Australia (both Labor and Coalition governments) had spied on Timor-Leste during negotiations over oil and gas reserves.

Federal Labor would presumably rather maintain the facade

'It's not unpatriotic to denounce an injustice committed on our behalf, perhaps it's the most patriotic thing we can do.'

– Author E.A. Bucchianeri

that protocols need to be followed, and that such action compromises the nation's security and defence.

It's a well worn trope from all governments, all across the globe.

Yet there is little to any evidence that the exposure of such secrets leads to an advantage for adversaries, or puts the lives of security forces at risk.

It didn't with Julian Assange's Wikileaks documents, of which the material released to the public was vast. He is still in jail.

There were no deaths reported after the revelations by Edward Snowden, who is unable to return to the US for fear of his life.

Generally, whistleblowers are diligent insiders who develop a conscience after the system fails them.

They want the best for their country, and understand the government is not their country.

The Guardian reported that the presiding judge in McBride's case said he ultimately believed McBride was of 'good character', but he appeared 'to have become obsessed with the correctness of his own opinions'.

Was that an opinion that embarrassed the government?

Hans Lovejoy, editor

News tips are welcome:
editor@echo.net.au

Big tech, porn, violence and young blokes

I know it's time we talked. The trouble is, I don't know exactly what to say. But let's try this:

In the month since the Bondi attacks, and the killing in Forbes, Australia's been convulsed by debate about how to better prevent male violence against women and children.

As every *Echo* reader has witnessed, people are taking to the streets, media coverage is in over-drive, governments have convened crisis meetings.

The NSW government plans to tighten bail and remand rules, while the feds are throwing more money at helping people leave abusive relationships. There's even moves to target Big Tech.

The budget will likely take domestic violence from the spotlight this week, but it'll be back.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics estimates over 40,000 people in NSW suffered at least one episode of physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner or family member in the past year.

The number who experienced any form of violence is 'substantially larger', as the figures don't include emotional or financial abuse, or those threatened.

These crimes are signs of deep national crisis. They demand better protection of victims now and prevention of male violence in the future.

If there's a silver lining here, it's the elevation of the tireless work of activists, advocates and bureaucrats investigating the complex causes, and forging effective solutions.

Toxic masculinity

Respect Victoria and Jesuit Social Services recently published results of a national survey of 3,500 men, aged between 18 and 45.

The survey presented men with a series of statements describing a conventional view of masculinity.

The statements included: 'Guys should act strong even if they feel scared or nervous inside'; 'Men should really be the ones to bring money home to provide for their families, not women'; 'A man shouldn't have to do household



'If Australia can successfully take on Big Tobacco, it can also target industries profiting from violence against women'

– Dr Ray Moynihan

chores'; and, 'Men should use violence to get respect if necessary.'

The study found a staggering 37 per cent of young Australian men aged 18 to 30 felt social pressure to conform to this set of rigid, old-fashioned, and harmful 'rules' about masculinity. More alarming, 26 per cent of these men agreed with these rules.

It also found men who most strongly agreed with these rules were much more likely to report having used violence in their intimate relationships, perpetrated bullying and sexual harassment, and viewed violent pornography at least once a week.

The group 'It's Time We Talked' focuses on the harmful impacts of pornography on children, how it reinforces stereotypes, and how it can drive violence towards women.

Statistics from its website suggest half of all boys have now seen porn by the age of 13, a third of scenes in popular porn contain non-consensual behaviour – including such extreme violence as strangulation – and boys are viewing porn far more often than girls.

Toxic tech

Pornography obviously pre-dates Big Tech, but porn websites are now among the most popular in the world, and access to porn via social media is simple.

Almost 10 per cent of children have reportedly seen pornography before the age of 10.

As advocates Jess Hill and Michael Salter point out, there's been an alarming rise in recent years of young people as perpetrators of violence.

While child sexual abuse at the hands of adults has decreased over decades, abuse by known adolescents has increased in the last few

years. 'Now, the most common sexual offender against children is another child,' they write.

One move announced by the federal government following its crisis meeting was the introduction of a pilot project to force tech companies to verify the age of users before accessing certain sites.

The idea's appealing, but as you might guess, extremely complex.

The government's also moving to ban the creation and non-consensual distribution of deepfake pornography and launch a new parliamentary inquiry – all part of wider moves to regulate tech companies, described by pollster Peter Lewis as 'the most powerful and dangerous corporations on earth.'

There is positive action on many fronts. Advocates are promoting 'healthier masculinities' across workplaces, sports clubs, and schools. 'It's Time We Talked' offers many resources. *The National Action Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children, 2022-2032* will likely be strengthened.

In a paper released last month, Jess Hill and Michael Salter argue the national plan needs a fundamental overall, focussing prevention more on those at high risk of offending, and going after dangerous corporations.

If Australia can successfully take on Big Tobacco, they argue, it can also target industries profiting from violence against women, including pornography and technology.

One in four Australian men may still subscribe to a toxic masculinity, but the other three don't. Perhaps we should talk more often.

■ Ray Moynihan is an Assistant professor at Bond University, currently researching social media at the University of Sydney.

GREEN BIN STANDARDS HAVE CHANGED

Strict NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements mean that only food and garden organics can go in green bin: most 'compostable' food containers, and lots of other items people commonly put in the green bin, should NOT be put in the green bin.

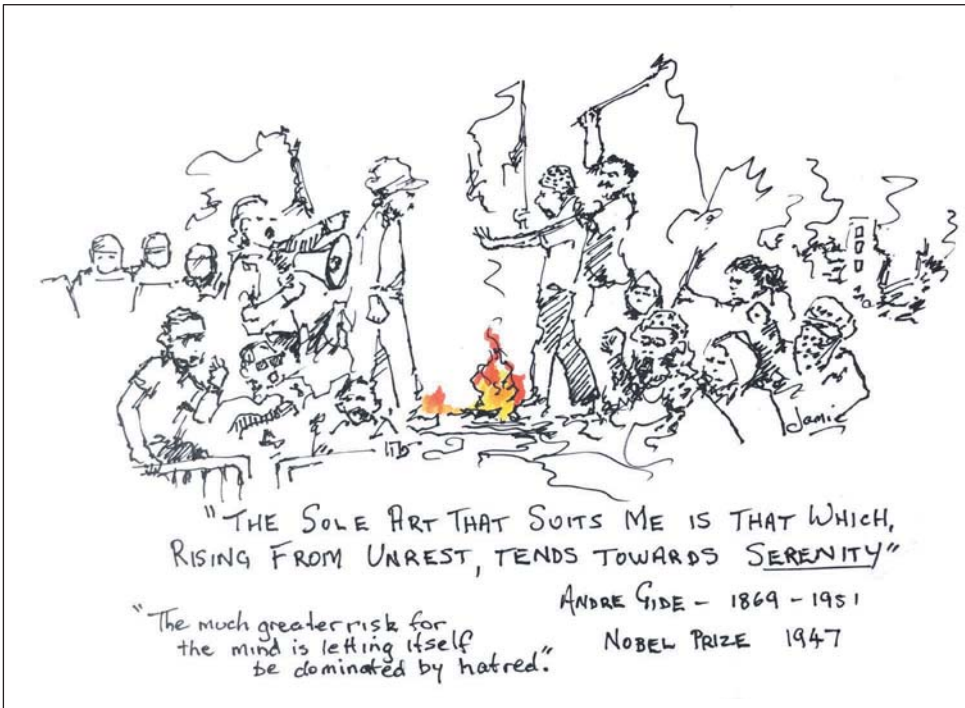
Emerging research shows that the impact of increasing compostable plastic content in compost (other than kitchen caddy liners that comply with Australian Standard AS 4736-2006) may impact its safe application to land. To be on the safe side, the EPA has changed green bin standards.

The Echo's new yellow 100% compostable bags, which you'll be seeing soon, comply with the new highest Australian standard for industrial (green bin) composting (AS 4736). Like the green compostable kitchen caddy liners they can be used to collect and transfer food waste into the green bin.

The newspaper itself, after you've read it, has many secondary uses such as for lining bins, cleaning windows, weed suppression, lighting fires and cleaning up dog vomit. It goes into the yellow bin, unless you're wrapping food scraps in it, in which case it goes into the green bin.



The Echo's new look yellow 100% compostable bags comply with the new highest Australian standard for industrial (green bin) composting (AS 4736).



"THE SOLE ART THAT SUITS ME IS THAT WHICH, RISING FROM UNREST, TENDS TOWARDS SERENITY"

ANDRE GIDE - 1869 - 1951

"The much greater risk for the mind is letting itself be dominated by hatred."

NOBEL PRIZE 1947

How Far to Peace? Jamie Hoile

Death wish

Money that should be spent on decarbonisation is being spent on catastrophe repairs. We are putting out the fire with gasoline.

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

National Service

I have to say that having been conscripted into the army in 1970 I couldn't disagree more with Peter Walters and those that advocate for National Service.

Being forced into any organisation is not the way to go about improvement.

Enlisting young people into more social services such as the SES, RFS, PCYC, the Salvos or any other organisation that can give them the skills that enable them to go forward with confidence where they feel more involved in the community would be much more rewarding.

Phill Clark
Eureka

Domestic violence

It has occurred to me that as many women who experience domestic violence are forced to flee their homes, it is they, the victims who are being punished not the perpetrator.

Here are some suggestions to rectify this:

1. Force the perpetrator to leave their home.
2. A mandatory jail sentence for any perpetrator caught within a kilometre of said home.
3. Force the man to pay family maintenance.

The benefits of this system:

1. Fewer safe houses needed to be built.
2. Less support money needed, this money saved could be used to develop and run educational programs to prevent domestic violence happening in the first place.

L Clarke
Ballina

Labor's gas failure?

I can't understand how Labor can commit to gas for the future while the UN Secretary-General said last year already: 'We need disruption to end the destruction. No more baby steps. No more excuses. No more greenwashing. No more bottomless greed of the fossil fuel industry and its enablers.'

Is it true that our government still pays over eight billion taxpayer dollars to the fossil fuel industries and they pay no taxes at all?

Chibo Mertineit
Lillian Rock

2022 flood data

The fact that the '2022 flood data will not be incorporated' is appalling, incompetent!

As a professional engineer (PE) who has been involved in planning the mitigation of flood damage for decades, I am very disappointed that Byron Council has, again, not realised the significance of 'delay'.

PE's and hydrologists have been 'playing catchup' with climate change for a long time (decades?).

By not incorporating the latest data, Council is 'setting

itself up' for more legal costs if there is another major flood event soon.

Does Byron Shire Council do any 'risk analysis'?

The risk of such an occurrence is not immense, but the potential consequences to residents are horrific.

Roger Seccombe
Ballina

2022 flood & DAs

At Byron Council's meeting on April 18, we didn't get time to deal with Report 14.1 which contained formal advice to Council from its Floodplain Advisory Committee. That advice was for Council to take into account the flood levels experienced around Byron Shire in February and March 2022, when setting future floor levels for development on our various floodplains.

The staff report to Council suggested not taking the advice and instead persisting with setting floor levels estimated by computer models enshrined in 2020 by the North Byron Flood Study, and in earlier years by flood studies for Belongil and Tallow Creeks.

The recently-released review of the 2022 floods tells us that these computer models are out-of-date and not up to industry standards.

Flood watcher Matthew Lambourne addressed Council on April 18 pointing out that the state's floodplain manual tells us to use historical data in locations where there is no model. Extending this approach, we would use historical data where a model can't provide answers.

Following a question by Councillor Coorey, staff now suggest that the 2022 actual flood levels CAN be used, by re-running the old computer model for the North Byron catchments. The results could then be used to guide development until a new model is produced. I estimate that is at least five years away.

I hope the public will support Cr Coorey on May 23 when the matter of taking the committee's advice comes back to Council. I hope Council will support the allocation of the \$10,000 towards implementing the advice and using 'the higher of two sets of levels, as the basis for determining flood planning levels: 1. Levels from the three adopted FPMS&P; 2. Levels from a peak water surface established from community data throughout the floodplains (peak levels February and March 2022).'

Duncan Dey
Flood hydrologist and Byron Shire councillor

Main Arm roads

Dear Tamara, I was at the meeting last night where we heard of Byron Council's frustrations with the NSW government in effecting repairs to flood-damaged roads.

Tell the premier, to tell our public servants to stop being obstructionist and tying things in knots!

It's time things started to move, excuses and bullshit do not repair flood-damaged roads!

Do residents have to fill potholes themselves, as I find myself having had to do?

Anton Vanderbyl
Palmwoods

► More letters on next page

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Jimi Hendrix
 Pic courtesy

where U goin' in UR hand?*
1973.
 Wikipedia.

In 2015 I surrendered under a **SAPOL Amnesty**; Dad's precious 10 round .22 calibre Semi-Automatic, an extremely dangerous weapon in ANYONE'S hands, 2 Shotguns, 12 Gauge + 4.10, and a high-powered .222.

LAS VEGAS 2017

This male **bulk assassin** killed 60 and wounded 413 watching a music festival, from his 32'nd floor hotel room, using a .223; designed 2 explode with more destructive, lethal power.

Walter Mikac, John Howard; SWIFT ACTION

The Pt Arthur killer, with 3 high-powered firearms, murdered 35 and injured many others on 28th April, 1996.
 9 Days later Walter Mikac, who lost his family, 1st wrote to P.M. Howard. The new Firearms Act became Law very soon after.

At a recent ceremony, 15.6.23, celebrating the permanent display of their letters in the Australian Museum, P.M. Albanese quite rightly called Mr Makic a hero. If I recall correctly from ABC news, Mr Makic's 1st letter was faxed to the P.M, who called him the very next day!

***102,018 Suicides Since 1980! * ??NO ACTION??**

I politely walked our P.M. around my website and **NEW PLAN 4 Reducing Suicides + Male Violence against Women/Children**, in my letter of 28.1.24. 2 Months later, I'm still awaiting his reply.

After 3 monthly ads in a Sydney/NSW paper with a Saturday audited readership of ½ million; with no response AT ALL from Other M.P.s, Our Taxpayer Funded S. P. Organisations, Australian Medical Association or ANY Media...

♥ The Silence is Deafening! ♥

☺ ***SHAMEAUSTRALIA SHAME!*** ☺

Scan Q.R. 4 details inc. Graph, New Plan + Letter 2 P.M
***Emergency 000, *Any Doctor, *Lifeline 13 11 14.**

Written by sheep farmer Tim Barritt. Barossa Valley, S.A.

Feudalism alive

The increasingly restrictive parking at New Brighton shows feudalism is alive and well.

It is understandable – wanting to protect your private fief, by not allowing others to also enjoy it. Restrict the parking and others won't be able to enjoy the beach. Surely, as it is your own fiefdom and your right.

The parking in the lane in front of New Brighton beach is a disgrace. There is barely room for any parking, with the exception of the local lords and ladies.

Garrett Fitzgerald
 Ocean Shores

Protect beach and coast

The last time my late father visited Byron Bay, I saw a tear roll down his cheek as he stood at Main Beach. My father was born and bred in Byron Bay and was a member of the first junior R&R (reel and rescue) team on the far north coast. 'Why are you crying?' I asked.

'They've done the wrong thing,' he replied.

'What do you mean?' I said, as ignorant as the next person at that time about the workings of our coastline.

'They've put rocks on the beach,' he said. 'So?' I replied.

'You never put rocks on a beach,' he answered. 'The water always comes to the rocks. You'll lose the beach!'

'What did you do after cyclones when you were a boy?'

'We just brought in more sandy soil and timbers and plants and the dunes were back in no time.'

I've been back in my dad's hometown and my childhood playground now for close to 20 years and I've done a lot of observation and research on coastal



erosion and the many ways we can respond. I even went on our local Council to try and stop a sea wall being built from Belongil to Main Beach. And while that hasn't happened YET, it has started again just up from Kendall Street, where new residents are extending their property gardens up and over the old dunes and walling them in with rocks and concrete pathways onto the sand, leaving no dunes at all to best protect our coastline and maintain any beach.

How is Council letting this happen when the court case over the matter many years ago determined, that while the placing of rocks in front of established homes built on the dunes was illegal and not best practice, they could remain, but no more, NO MORE!? Only soft revetment was to be used in future to maintain those homes built, ridiculously, ON the sand dunes instead of behind them.

Meanwhile, in fear of litigation from Belongil residents, Council compounds their mismanagement and neglect of our embayment by doing absolutely nothing to resurrect the ravaged dunes between Main Beach carpark and Belongil Beach. Being particularly impacted by the rocks at Main Beach, this stretch of beach had

metres of sand scoured out to sea in 2019-21 with the foredunes eaten into and collapsed. Yet instead of responsibly restoring this key stretch of Main Beach, Council has left it to be further degraded with people tramping all over the dunes and plants and creating new pathways onto the beach.

Last week I heard a BBC program *Crowdsience* on Radio National which says it all. Titled 'How should we protect our coastlines', people in Florida and Puerto Rico are working together to keep their beach communities safe. 'Keep the dunes safe and they'll keep us safe,' they say, 'It's a no brainer.' 'With dunes being our primary line of defence it is possible, given our capacity to change our environment, to recreate a dune where historic dunes have been removed.' Listen: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct5rgy>.

We can do that here in Byron Bay if we want to. It's being done further north on the Gold Coast and in so many other places. Yet our Council isn't making any moves in this direction. Will this community demand it? I live in hope!

Jan Hackett
 Byron Bay

Gas

Living in a modern world I see on social media, etc. world melting, CO₂ production associated topics.

So having recently installed a solar power generation system on the roof of my home, I started to think... what have I achieved in this endeavour?

The main thing to me, is that I have reduced oxygen consumption by installing this power-generating system that feeds back to the grid, by utilising light instead of the combustion process.

Therefore saving oxygen, a gas that oxygen-dependent life requires on Earth, which

is running about 20.9 per cent by volume now.

With this environmental saving comes an added way of lesser benefit in creation of \$\$\$\$\$, this being via a sympathetic taxation system allowing for example, deductibility of, for example, insurance on homes that are power generators, land rates, maintenance of power generation plant, etc., also depreciation of power-generating plant on roof.

Last census I have been able to source, it states somewhere near 11,000,000 domestic dwellings in Australia, say at \$4,000 taxation benefit each that's a number. So when young people build a house then instal solar, that's an increase without businesses incurring a cost – out of this number government gets income tax and GST benefit returned.

I am not saying don't pay bills, but be eligible to claim the economic growth based on sunlight.

Allan Drury
 Wardell

Danny's world

Danny Wakil would have us believe that Israel is a sweet little peace-loving 'sister democracy' that can do no wrong and is always an innocent victim, surrounded by mean nasty Arabs and Islamic terrorists who threaten its very existence. Hence Israel needs and has a most fearsome and sophisticated military to defend itself, a military that enjoys all the power and authority but bears none of the blame or responsibility. Furthermore, Israel has a right to attack with lethal force anyone anywhere, anytime it wants, and no one has a right to defend themselves from Israeli aggression.

In the real world however, Israel pursues a policy of targeted killing that has resulted in the assassination of hundreds of Palestinian leaders. Israel regularly raids Palestinian homes to kill and capture Palestinian 'targets'. Currently thousands of Palestinians are held hostage in Israeli prisons. Israel routinely demolishes Palestinian homes and civilian infrastructure while building illegal settlements on stolen land. Israel has been treating the Palestinians this way for decades without any sort of compunction or serious consequences. Hence the Palestinian resistance.

John Scrivener
 Main Arm

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Locals object to Byron's Piggery expansion as being large and inappropriate development

■ The article in last's week's *Echo* ('Piggery plans on exhibition'), could not have been more lacking in balance had it been provided by the proponent herself.

As the date of submissions (April 30) had elapsed by the time *The Echo* hit my driveway, it was similarly useless for any who may have wished to comment.

The fact is that such a large-scale development at the terminus of a dead end at Yagers Lane, off another dead end (Skinners Shoot Rd), serviced by a 4m wide road, is totally inappropriate.

The Skinners Shoot area is one of the most diverse ecological remnants in Byron Shire. Home to swamp wallabies, koalas, echidnas, potoroos, myriad reptiles and bird species, already threatened by vehicular traffic far in excess of the current road standard. Loved by joggers, walkers and cyclists, this beautiful area will be destroyed forever by this iteration of 'The Farm' at the dead end. Only one

way in and out. Double the chance to add to the roadkill.

The proponent's vision is to create an Australian version of the Danish restaurant NOMA (\$880/head + drinks), with the largest restaurant in Byron Shire (900m²+), along with a food and drinks business. Effectively 6am-12pm, six days a week. The Skinners Shoot community is almost unanimous in its opposition to this egregious proposal, with almost zero community consultation (one poorly informed gathering 18 months ago), and zero sensitivity to the local wildlife and community.

Beware the Trojan Pig – it cannot fly!

Brian Donnellan
Skinners Shoot

■ As a long-term resident of Skinners Shoot, I am writing to express my concern that the article 'Piggery plans on exhibition' (*Echo*, May 1,) has not represented the views of the 66 residents of Skinners Shoot who have written submissions to Council

opposing this large and inappropriate development.

Of the 52 submissions the proponent submitted with the development application (DA) only three can be attributed to residents of Skinners Shoot, and therefore are unlikely to be adversely impacted by it. Two live at the property where the development will occur.

One of the main concerns of the residents is the resulting large increase in traffic movements on roads that already do not meet Council's engineering standards for the current number of vehicle movements. The statement that the developer has addressed this concern adequately is untrue. Sadly, there have been a number of deaths on the road, and the condition of the road is generally very poor, and cannot be improved without clearing of significant wildlife habitat.

The road and adjacent land is an important corridor for wildlife, with frequent sightings of swamp

wallabies, coastal pythons, echidna, and koalas.

Inevitably, more traffic will result in increased mortality of wildlife. The Friends of the Koala has expressed serious concerns regarding the impact of this development.

The proposed development is inconsistent with the existing character, scale and amenity of the locality, and suggests that there are future expanded commercial activities intended for such a massive site. \$22.2 million for a 45-seat restaurant and roadside stall? Really?

The proponent is claiming to involve and connect with the community, but is ignoring the massive and unsustainable impact of the development on the Skinners Shoot neighbourhood community. This is another example of a long list of developments that erode what is left of the amenity and community of long-term residents of the shire for the benefit of a few absentee investors.

Pamela Collins
Skinners Shoot

Ten years since the Northern Rivers made history at Bentley



Anandan McEwen up a pole at the Bentley blockade. Photo Cloudcatcher Media

David Lowe

With hundreds of riot police expected to confront thousands of protectors on site at the Bentley blockade, west of Lismore, it was a great relief to many when the NSW government suspended Metgasco's Petroleum Exploration Licence on May 15, 2014, effectively handing a historic win to the community.

The blockade was the culmination of years of organised community opposition to invasive gasfields across the Northern Rivers.

This came to a head with blockades at Glenugie, south of Grafton, and Doubtful Creek, before the biggest one of all, at rural Bentley, with multiple gatherings at

dawn and impromptu rock concerts made possible by the large ongoing camp at the neighbouring property.

Reunion

On the tenth anniversary of Victory Day, May 15, there will be an informal reunion, from 10.30am till 3pm, of those who made history at the nearby Bentley Rail Trail car park, not far from the Naughtons Gap junction with Kyogle Road.

People are asked to BYO food and water. There are toilets on site.

You can find out more at the Facebook event page set up by organiser Anne Thompson.

■ Read full story in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au

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He's off, has been for years! And what's a conspiracy amongst friends?

Richard Hil

After ten years in Mullum I've relocated to the middle of an extinct volcano in Murwillumbah. Happily, a decade of living in nirvana central has taught me a lot. Most of it positive. Its claim of being the biggest little town in Australia is about right, but it's also a place riddled with oddities and internal contradictions.



Richard Hil. Photo supplied

Slightly strange to the utterly bizarre

My earliest recollection of arriving in town is of attending a small gathering of the area's leading conspiracy theorists. Oh, what fun we had! My partner and I were regaled with numerous florid ideas, mainly to do with 9/11, reptilians, Bill Gates, 4G, various paedophilic dungeons, the World Health Organisation, the UN – you name it. Over the years I've heard many such theories, from the slightly strange to the utterly bizarre. To an outsider such thought streams might be considered risible, but in Mullum they're commonplace. The more I got to know the exponents of these colourful offerings, the more they'd encourage me to do my 'research' – which, on occasion, I did.

There's a serious side to all this, of course – I mean, people hold on tightly to their beliefs. But I've come to realise that claims about secretive cabals, satanic cults, reptilians and

the like stem from a fundamental distrust of power. Nothing unusual about that, you might say. Distrust of politicians, public institutions, corporations, etc. is sky high. Why wouldn't it be? After all, you don't have to look very far to come across lies, deceit, cover-ups and obfuscation. It's how power operates. Remember Watergate, Vietnam, Iraq, East Timor, Robodebt, etc. etc.?

Still, where I diverge from my florid friends, is on the question of what Australian-British intellectual Karl Popper referred to as falsifiability. Somewhere along the line you have to decide whether what's being proposed is reasonable, and for that you need some semblance of supporting evidence rather than intuition or guesswork.

Remember the 'Pizzagate' saga? I was sent numerous links alleging that satanic child-killing rituals were being

carried out in the basement of a Washington DC pizza parlour. I checked the claims out and rapidly came to the conclusion that they were bogus. When an armed gunman entered the eatery to rescue the unfortunate 'victims' – children, apparently – it was discovered there was no basement. Whoopsie-daisy. The man in question was eventually apprehended, convicted and now languishes in jail.

But I digress. Mullum is much more than a repository for conspiracy fads. It's crammed full of amazing people. Its colour and energy are the stuff of legends. The festivals, parades, music, activism and tolerance (broadly speaking) of difference are bedrock features. Yet like most resonant places, Mullum has over the years become a parody of itself, with new agers and spiritual gurus exhibiting many of the signs of radical individualism.

Plenty to learn

What I love most about Mullum is that you can always seek out someone to talk to. Most days, cafes are packed with lots of animated folk yakking away. Some of my favourite days were spent sitting in the Cardamon Pod eavesdropping on the most fascinating and zaniest of conversations. But you learn a lot, too. Let's face it, with a population of artists, writers, filmmakers, actors, comedians, musicians and so forth, what do you think is going to happen?

The thing is, I have never felt lonely in Mullum. Friends regularly dropped in for a chat. People were available. It's that kind of place. I wish that there had been more active acknowledgement of the town's Indigenous presence which often felt overridden by successive waves of colonisers. I wished too that there had been more congruence between what people professed and how they actually behaved. But who's not guilty of that? I hoped too that the town centre could be congested with bikes, roller skates and scooters rather than motor vehicles.

I want to end by applauding *The Echo* – one of the best independent newspapers in Australia. It's feisty, informative and a necessary bulwark against unrestrained power, especially with Mandy's weekly column, it's always worth a read. Long live *The Echo*!

Dog attack kills another wallaby

Wednesday, May 8 saw another wallaby put down after a suspected dog attack on the beach at Byron Bay, the second in a short period.

Sonia Friedrich, who found the injured wallaby, has called on locals and visitors alike to stop taking their dogs into areas of National Park, including up to the Byron Lighthouse.

'No one thinks their dog will or can kill a wallaby or roo but they do,' Sonia told *The Echo*.

NPWS arrived within half an hour of Sonia calling them, agreed that the wallaby needed assistance and called WIRES Northern Rivers to assist. The wallaby was taken to the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital for assessment. The wallaby did not survive. It was blind in one eye and had a broken spine.

Myopathy

Even if a wallaby or kangaroo doesn't die immediately from a dog attack they will often die of myopathy following an attack.

■ Read full story in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au.

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Labor's new gas policy dictated by industry?

David Lowe

In the lead-up to the 2024 budget, the ALP has just released one of the most idiotic and infuriating documents they've ever produced, their *Future Gas Strategy*.

After being elected to do something serious about the climate crisis, and having more positions on gas than the kama sutra in recent years, the Albanese government is now saying methane has a big future in this country, well beyond 2050.

Adding insult to injury, they're claiming extracting and burning fossil gas will 'support decarbonisation of the Australian economy' and 'help our trade partners on their own paths to net zero'.

Resources Minister Madeleine King has gone on her version of a charm offensive to accompany the release of the new strategy, saying gas exploration needs to be ramped up and existing discoveries need to be fully exploited, or the sky will fall.

This is exactly the opposite of what climate science says needs to happen if we are to maintain a liveable



Gas is good, according to Albo and friends. Cloudcatcher Media

environment on what is our only home.

The gas industry's long-claimed and long-discredited assertion that gas is a bridging fuel to a renewable nirvana takes centre stage in the new document, as well as the usual nonsense about carbon capture and 'reducing gas-related emissions' while simultaneously drilling and exporting more gas than ever before.

This is in essence an identical strategy to Scott Morrison's much derided 'gas-led recovery' from Covid, another initiative scripted by the gas industry.

The frightening thing is that the current government is doing this with its eyes completely open, unable to claim ignorance, stupidity or religious mania as excuses.

Big bucks?

Labor's gas strategy is equally idiotic from an economic or environmental perspective. The Australia Institute's Richard Denniss has been reminding the government for some time that it makes more money from HECS than from the petroleum resource rent tax, and there is nothing in the new strategy which addresses that.

Madeleine King says gas generates \$72 billion of export income, when as Mr Denniss points out, that actually represents the profits flowing to an 80-per cent-foreign-owned industry, not money paying for roads and hospitals.

Australia will have to pay for the water, toxicity and climate impacts of unconventional gas for generations.

The central problem actually being faced by industries that use gas in this country – its outrageously high price – is a problem entirely of the gas industry's making, with almost all of our gas being exported, and prices trebling



Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, Madeleine King. Photo Wikipedia CC

as a result. Now the solution is apparently to export even more gas.

Right now, there is a temporary price cap on wholesale gas prices, but as Orica CEO Sanjeev Gandhi said last week, this cap has effectively become a floor price. His company has manufacturing operations in the US and Australia, but their factory in Queensland (from where a lot of Australia's gas is exported), has to pay three times as much for gas.

People ignored

Labor's gas strategy ignores the fervent opposition from First Nations to

fracking for unconventional gas, while paying lip service to 'connection to country' and talking vaguely about benefit sharing.

It ignores the many rallies from young people concerned about the climate impacts of fossil fuels, while pretending to be interested in the future. It ignores the laws of physics by claiming that the unconventional gas industry can be accelerated while emissions fall.

The lobbyists' victory over democracy is almost complete. Santos and Woodside couldn't have written anything better suited to their business interests. And all this is coming from a government which says it wants to host a UN climate conference here in 2026. This is beyond embarrassing. The correct word is criminal.

No one who is serious about the climate emergency can vote for a party which adopts this absurd approach. The Greens and teals will be clear beneficiaries.

If this gas strategy becomes entrenched as policy, Labor may lose any hope of future majority government.

Byron Shire sees biggest increase in rough sleepers – but it's not alone

Aslan Shand

Byron Shire topped the state with a 16 per cent increase in rough sleepers, but the count also showed significant increases in numbers across Tweed, Ballina and Lismore shires.

Sydney has remained stable with a one per cent increase but regional areas are experiencing the biggest surge in homelessness in the past year. The 2024 street

count found 2,037 people sleeping rough in 2024 compared to 1,623 people last year.

'The sobering street count figures again paint a harrowing picture of homelessness and street sleeping across our state,' said Minister for Homelessness Rose Jackson.

The impact of climate disasters like the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires, the 2022 floods, the rising interest

rates, cost of living pressures and a shortage of rental homes are just some of the factors that are continuing to drive homelessness and street sleeping.

It is important to note that these are just the people sleeping on the street and in their cars, they do not reflect the number of people who are homeless and for example are staying with family or sleeping on friend's couches, etc.

Lismore saw the number of rough sleepers jump from 40 in 2023 to 64 in 2024. Tweed Valley went from 145 to 174 in 2024, Ballina went from 30 to 63 and Byron Shire went from 300 to 348.

The NSW government have said they are taking action to address the rise in rough sleepers and homelessness.

Ballina MP Tamara Smith told *The Echo* that 'Byron Shire has had the highest

number of rough sleepers in the state for a while. We haven't seen strong action by Labor or the previous Liberal and National party coalition; we are at crisis point.

'We need recurrent funding for organisations like the Mullumbimby District and Neighbourhood Centre (MDNC), Liberation Larder, the Hot Meals Centre in Ballina and Byron Fletcher Street Cottage.

'There was nothing in last year's budget in Byron LGA for housing and if there is nothing in this year's budget then the government isn't taking this issue seriously.

'The community fought tooth and nail for decades to have Short Term Rental Accommodation (STRA) regulation and while this will make some difference it is not an panacea.'

■ Read full story in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au.

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Victoria Cosford

Mac's face lights up as he describes the rice
fields near Nimbin, home to the family-
owned Marlivalle Farm. 'The rice,' he says,
'is about to go into harvest and it's looking
good. The fields are grassy with that coco-
nutty smell, like pandan...'

Like so many other businesses, this one
is only now properly recovering from the
floods three years ago. Frank Boyle inher-
ited the 30-year old pecan plantation from
his father; the rice followed some 16 years
later. And since then it's remained very
firmly in the family, daughter Sophie and
son-in-law Mac working alongside Frank
and Andrea. 'It's just the four of us,' Mac
says. 'We live and work there, we all do it
together.' It's that closeness and solidarity
that has enabled them all to withstand the
various vicissitudes which constitute farm-
ing. 'The changing climate,' Mac says, 'and
the unpredictability make it harder to plan,
but the benefit of being a family is that we

all share – it lessens the burden. We work
together to work it out.'

He says that this year both rice and
pecans are 'looking so good!' Frank has
a nut-cracking facility – three cracking
machines – which means the nuts never
leave the farm. 'It's allowed us to send
the nuts to the markets and they're so
fresh!', Mac says, 'plus we're reducing
mileage.' The shells are used for compost;
the broken nuts go into their very popular
pecan spread. All the nuts are hand-sorted
several times.

I want to know about new products, if
any, and again Mac's face lights up. 'Our
brown rice flour is the big thing,' he tells
me. 'Brown rice flour is so hard to find.'
They're using a granite stone-mill down in
Victoria for the grinding. 'There's nothing
better,' Mac says, 'than freshly milled flour
– it's so light and fine and fluffy.'

■ Marlivalle Farm is at New Brighton Farmers
Market every Tuesday from 8 to 11am.



The Good Life

When Miriam Margoyles came to the Byron Farmers Market

Actress, author and British-Australian documentarian Miriam Margoyles recently launched her latest ABC docuseries, *Impossibly Australian*, in which Byron Bay plays a starring role.

For the three-part series, Miriam visited Perth, Broken Hill and our own beautiful backyard to hear from locals about how they are adapting to change.

She chose Byron because, in her words, it

is 'one of the most famously free-spirited places in the country... a beacon of creativity and freedom' and she wanted to explore how locals were coping in the face of Byron becoming 'a playground for seriously rich celebrities'.

As well as meeting the obligatory influencer and attempting to surf, Miriam visited Fletcher St Cottage

'Byron still has a heart, and farmers' markets keep it beating.'

and Byron Farmers Market.

A long-time advocate of farmers' markets, Miriam wanted to see the market for herself as she felt it was the best way to gauge if Byron still has its 'heart and soul'.

'For me, community really matters,' she says. 'But I'm worried the community here is struggling to cope with the onslaught of so many wealthy newcomers. So, I've come to the farmers' market to see if Byron still has its heart and

soul.'

'I love farmers' markets because they make a community feel good about itself - the people, the food.'

Miriam roamed the market, meeting local farmers and producers and

sampling some of the best food our region has to offer.

'It was great to have Miriam here because she's a big advocate of farmers' markets,' Byron Farmers Market manager Tom Carey said. 'And she was very impressed with the authenticity of our market.'

'She was very interested in the provenance of our produce and also the availability and access to land for young people wanting to get a start in farming, which is one of our concerns as well.'

Miriam's verdict? Byron definitely still has a heart and, for her, the farmers' market is helping to keep that heart beating.

'To me, this farmers' market is the best of Byron.' You can watch *Impossibly Australian* on ABC iview.

■ Byron Farmers Market is held every Thursday from 7 to 11am at Butler St Reserve, and Bangalow Farmers Market is held every Saturday from 7 to 11am behind the Bangalow pub.



Miriam Margoyles, pictured with Byron Farmers Market manager Tom Carey, included Byron Bay in her latest ABC docuseries, *Impossibly Australian*. 'Byron still has a heart, and farmers' markets keep it beating, she says.



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Yakitori Party at Wandana Brewing	21 May	\$15
Live Music Night at the Treehouse	22 May	Free
Fire with Fire: Arkhé x Serai Dinner	23 May	SOLD OUT
Beach Byron Bay Farm to Beach Lunch	23 May	\$150
Hutong Harry's Shanghai Nights with Louis Tikaram	24 May	\$120
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We Like to Tiki' Festival Closing Party	26 May	\$60

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SUNDAY MAY 19, 2024

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It's Bangalow Billycart Derby time!

It's world-famous', says Greg Nash (Nashy), President of the Bangalow Lions Club, of the Summerland Bank Bangalow Billycart Derby – hosted by Bangalow Lions Club – which is taking place on Sunday, May 19 starting very early on Byron Street, Bangalow.

Nashy says It's a fantastic community and family event, and a 'must-attend' for all 'Bangalownian's' as well as billycart racers and visitors alike who come from miles around, they really do! It's one of the headline events on the Northern Rivers calendar!

There's a race for everyone from 5-year-olds to 85-year-olds, amateurs, professionals, celebrities, sporting club challengers, primary school challengers, pretenders, clowns, gypsies and jokers. This year's local primary school challenge gives the winning school a chance to receive a \$500 cash prize for each race category; traditional and homegrown.

Registrations commence at Bangalow Hotel at 7am but have your billycart scrutineered and stickered at Foodworks car park first! Practice runs start at 8am, racing starts at 9am sharp. This year's Grand Parade 'will be so cool', says Nashy, starting at 12.30ish.

Look out for the new groovy Bangalow Billycart Derby t-shirts and caps on sale at the registration desk or you can pre-purchase online. Limited stock!

A temporary closure of Byron Street (the main street) and Station Street, Bangalow will be in effect from 6am to 4pm on Sunday, May 19 to accommodate the races.

Traffic is diverted along Deacon Street which will become a two-way traffic access way for the period of the main street temporary closure. No parking permitted on both Deacon Street and Market Street to assist with the two-way traffic flow.

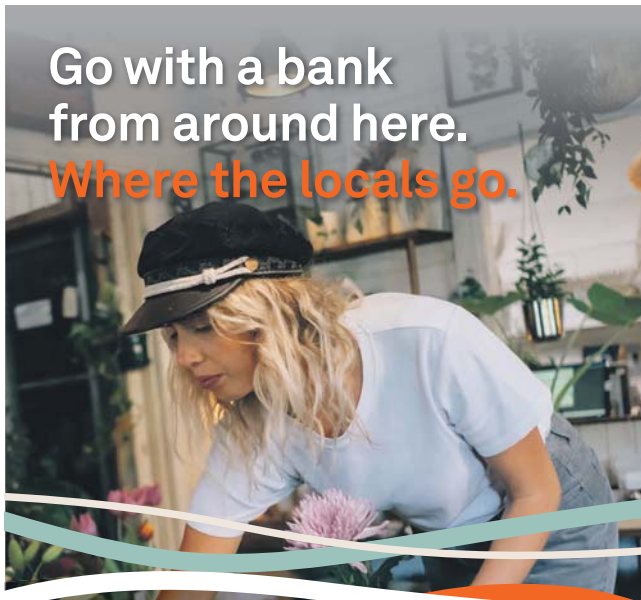


Plenty of parking with a gold coin donation will be available at the Bangalow Showgrounds via Market Street.

Grab a snag on your way to the races from the hard-working Bangalow Lions Club crew.

Bangalow Public School's annual fair, 'The Pit Stop' also takes place on the day. Be sure to go over and enjoy all the fun The Pit Stop has to offer: a pop-up bar, games, shows, lots of fantastic food offerings and yummy cakes. Grab a raffle ticket in the school's mega-affle. More than \$15,000 of prizes on offer including a trip to Bali. Tickets start at \$5 and can be purchased at www.raffleink.com.au/pitstop2024

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With less than a week to go, get your billycart ready to have some billycart racing fun. Remember safety first and always wear a helmet!

Go to www.bangalowbillycart.com.au, read carefully and register online, or you can register very early on the day. There are certain specifications you need to follow and please note the derby rules and terms and conditions on the website.

To be part of this fun-filled thrill-seeking day you need to follow the steps below:

1. Buy your tickets - register online
2. Read the rules for your billycart to be scrutineered for sign off to compete on the day
3. Familiarise yourself with the race and your event

See y'all on the day! All enquiries including much needed volunteer help to Nashy 0418 440 545 or alfred.lodge@bigpond.com



EVENT PROGRAM ON NEXT PAGE



A huge thanks to our local supporters who help make this day come to life and a shout out to our sponsors.

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Voucher must be presented to staff, only valid for one per person.

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SUNDAY MAY 19, 2024
BANGALOW BILLYCART DERBY



EVENT PROGRAM

- 7-8.30am** Registration and scrutineering
- 8-8.45am** Practice runs
- 9am** Races begin!
- 9am** 5-7 year old – traditional/homegrown
- 9.20am** 8-11 year old – traditional/homegrown
- 10.20am** 12-15 year old – traditional/homegrown
- 11.30am** Parent/Child – traditional/homegrown
- 11.45am** \$1,000 Schools Challenge – traditional/homegrown
- 12.10pm** Mothers Challenge – any billycart
- 12.15pm** Trophy presentation – morning events
- 12.30pm** Street parade and lunch
- 1.15pm** Celebrity – any billycart
- 1.45pm** Open – traditional/homegrown
- 1.50pm** Junior – professional
- 2pm** Open – professional
- 2.30pm** Tag Team – any billycart
- 2.45pm** Sporting Clubs Challenge – any billycart
- 2.55pm** Novelty – special billycart
- 3.15pm** Trophy presentation – afternoon events
- 3.20pm** Street clean up – all welcome!

DERBY RULES

- It is your responsibility to be in the right place at the right time. We do not delay races.
- A separate entry form is required for each billycart in each race category.
- Helmets are compulsory and protective clothing is recommended.
- All billycarts will receive a minimum of two runs – the first is a practice.
- If entrant and billycart fail to arrive at the start line the race will commence on time.
- The same billycart cannot be used more than once in the same race category.
- Billycarts entered into age categories 5-15 years – driver and passenger must be within the same age category.
- All billycarts will start from a standing start.
- No outside assistance is allowed at start line or whilst racing.
- No pedalling, pushing, paddling or propulsion of any kind is allowed.
- Billycarts must proceed under their own weight, but rocking is permitted.
- Drivers and passengers must remain seated whilst racing.
- Billycarts must travel in a straight line, no swerving, weaving or turning from side-to-side.
- Any billycarts that crash will be disqualified. At the discretion of the organisers any billycart crashed into may receive another run, time permitted.
- Tag team rules – three competitors per team, comprising three legs using the same billycart, ie. the first leg team member rides billycart down the hill over the finish line, second team member runs the billycart on foot back up to the start line and tags the third member who rides billycart down the hill over the finish line.
- All judges' decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- A billycart or driver may be disqualified at any time at the discretion of the Chief Marshall.
- Unsafe billycarts, dangerous driving or bad conduct by participants will not be tolerated and may result in immediate expulsion or possible disqualification from the event for the whole day. The Chief Marshall's decision (or that of their delegate) will be final and binding.
- All billycarts and drivers must be available for scrutineering between 7am and 8.30am at the top of Byron Street, Bangalow. Late entries will not be accepted.
- The Committee reserves the right to rearrange or cancel events.
- Three (3) wheeler billycarts can only enter as 'professional' or 'novelty' category billycart.
- No refunds.
- All participants enter at their own risk.
- Please note that this event is meant to be a fun day for everyone and participation, not winning, is the desired outcome. It is designed primarily for the thrills and laughter of the day, rather than as a sporting competition. Please be patient and understanding and have a great time!



The team at Castrikum Adams Legal and Bangalow Conveyancing wish everyone good luck in the Billycart Derby. We'll see you there!

Mercedes and her team are passionate about our local area and supporting our community.

Our practice areas include:

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If you find yourself rolling into a legal issue, contact our office, and we can get you to the finish line.

Castrikum Adams Legal 6687 1167
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The
BOWLO
 BANGALOW

**DERBY
 AFTER
 PARTY**



SUNDAY 19 MAY

BOWLO OPEN FROM 12PM



FROM 9AM

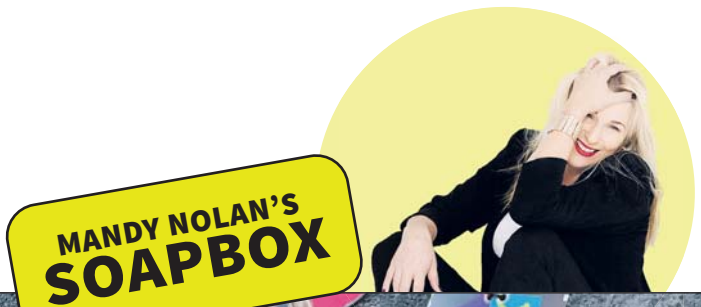


FROM 1PM

Live
**PASIFLOREZ
 POP RADIO**

FROM 4PM

It's a Sign



Someone is taking down signs.

You know who you are.

Right now, I bet you are sitting at home with a bunch of corflutes from the Byron Comedy Festival, and a bunch of other local events, feeling powerful in your sad fight against fun.

This is taking FOMO too far. I see your cunning plan.

You don't miss out if everyone else does too.

It's a sickness.

An obsession with ruining the enjoyment of other people.

Sign stealer, fun destroyer, you have to stop!

Update: Various public events are continually having their public signage taken down. Not sporting or community events. So it's clearly personal. The target is little festivals or local shows. It happens on a fairly continual basis. The most recent victim of the sign Grinch is The Byron Comedy Festival.

Just so you know, this is not my festival. It's the creation of Mel Coppin and Zara Noruzi. They aren't corporate tycoons. They're two local Byron women who put on a really awesome small-scale event every year. This year it's at the Hotel Great Northern.

I've been helping them since they started because what they are doing is brilliant. They work really hard to bring a five-star program to town. They need people to know about their comedy event, because if people don't go, then things don't happen. It's how you kill creativity. We are moving to fun extinction. Not all of us are the right market for an under 16's netball sign-up. We need options.

In a world going digital it's almost charming that public signage works. It's old school. It relies on actual humans moving through space seeing a 3D printed object and clocking that something is happening. In small communities,

The Byron Comedy Festival has had hundreds of dollars worth of legally erected signage taken. Twice! It's happening to other events too. If you see someone taking signage down get a photo and send it to me and I'll publish.

public signage works. So is AI doing this? Some sort of digital public space phobic bot?

Fuck! Is it Mark Zuckerberg? Greedily pushing everything into his Meta empire so we can be data-harvested like people wheat? I thought he was Mr Freedom, and against takedowns.

So who is it? Is it someone from Tidy Towns? You have a choice, a couple of public signs now and then or NOTHING on. Tidiness or creativity? We do endeavour to collect signs post-event.

So is it a compliance officer at Council? Because after Zuckerberg, when it comes to blaming people for our problems, Council are high

on the list. But it's not Council either. The Byron Comedy Festival have permission from Council to exhibit their signs. And they've triple checked. Even Council understands the importance of supporting our local event industry. This is really a local mystery. A challenge for true crime buffs.

Just in case you don't realise, the event industry is in crisis. Locally we have seen Splendour cancel. It's a tough market. We are in a cost-of-living crisis. With less and less people reading print media, or print being behind paywalls, Meta changing algorithms so you have to drop a squillion to get in front of anyone who isn't an 'angry men's rights' troll. In a small community, posters and public signage is old-school but it works.

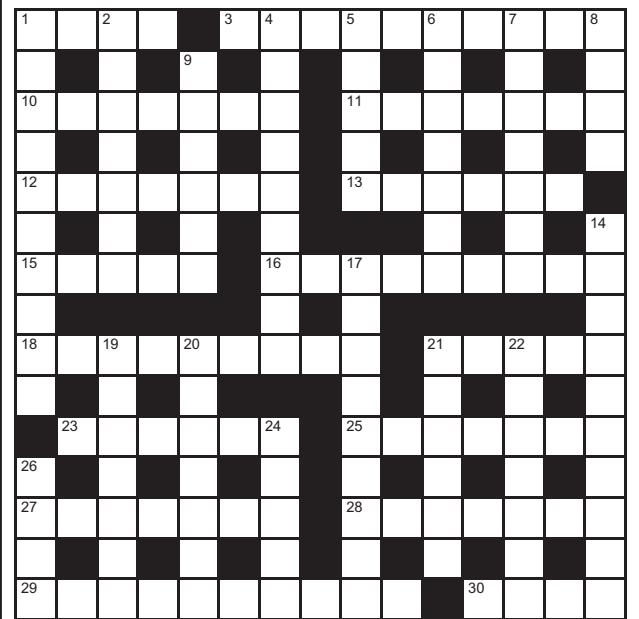
So we need your help to stop the fun bandit. The Byron Comedy Festival has had hundreds of dollars worth of legally erected signage taken. Twice! It's happening to other events too. If you see someone taking signage down get a photo and send it to me and I'll publish.

We need to meet the Grinch trying to steal our fun.

In the meantime, check out the Byron Comedy Festival program on byroncomedyfest.com for the event happening at The Hotel Great Northern 30, 31 May and 1 June.

Crossword by Stephen Clarke

#3



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. Legendary ship jettisons first item of freight (4)
3. Cockney friend traps cold little furry creature (10)
10. Fortune made by Disney novel about time (7)
11. Unfriendly detectives have hissy fit when rum is confiscated (7)
12. Money generated by play about church (7)
13. In fact, I missed out on property (6)
15. Medical condition of king revealed in overthrow of government (5)
16. Refreshments for cricket teams mid-test (9)
18. Fast one I'm spinning in declaration (9)
21. In confusion, I bit a bone (5)
23. Monster gets around caging birds (6)
25. Superhero in rage about backflip by Tesla, for example (7)
27. In short, officer has gone crazy in German city (7)
28. Unbeliever, briefly sick, embraces heterodox fiend (7)
29. Wearable hardware hurt guard (10)
30. Promotions read out on cutter (4)

DOWN

1. Personal assistant has silly idea - do a runner! (4-2-4)
2. Secret police interfering with postage (7)
4. Huge blows to farmers? (9)
5. Rained out, no energy, at rock bottom (5)
6. A great many people, along with the attorney-general, are onto *Echo* about security (7)
7. Lions trap worker in sheds (4-3)
8. Singer, in total confusion, takes time out (4)
9. Cleric finds ambivalent types at dance (6)
14. Casual shoe seller paid out (10)
17. Trump, for example, is crazy. Come again? (9)
19. Kitchen goddess uses this spice (7)
20. Foreman initially gets crew onto cargo (7)
21. Start round, with posh type grabbing points (3,3)
22. Audibly pay out on father of Arab city (7)
24. Stone slab at last cracked, revealing *Echo* (5)
26. Performs part of sacred text (4)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

1. Ship that returned with the Golden Fleece (4)
3. South American rodent bred for its silvery-grey fur (10)
10. Future determined by fate (7)
11. Far away; aloof (7)
12. Old Greek unit of currency (7)
13. The business of estate agents (6)
15. Illness of laryngeal origin (5)
16. Mid-morning snack (9)
18. Public proclamation of intent (9)
21. A bone of the human leg (5)
23. Species of wading birds (6)
25. One who punishes wrongs (7)
27. Perfumed liquid (7)
28. One who rejects a particular religious belief (7)
29. Device connecting its wearer to the internet (10)
30. Ancient heavy hand tool (4)

DOWN

1. Military officer, right hand man to a superior (4-2-4)
2. Feared arm of the Nazi regime (7)
4. Wild swinging punches (9)
5. Point of the celestial sphere directly opposite the zenith (5)
6. One held captive as ransom (7)
7. Outbuildings with sloping roofs (4-3)
8. Highest male voice (4)
9. Chess piece (6)
14. Light shoe with a canvas upper and braided sole (10)
17. Person with overriding concern for their own interests (9)
19. Black caraway (7)
20. Carriage of commercial goods (7)
21. Begin a game of golf (3,3)
22. Middle Eastern capital city (7)
24. Vertical stone surface bearing carved inscriptions or images (5)
26. Major divisions of plays (4)

Last week's solution #2

O	L	D	S	C	H	O	O	L	D	R	O	O	P
A	R	O	G	A	E	P	E						
S	C	A	M	P	E	R	M	A	R	Q	U	E	
I	S	P	E	B	I	L	P						
S	I	T	C	O	M	S	A	D	D	R	E	S	
I	L	S	E	N	H								
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I													
S	T	O	I	C	V	E	S	T	M	E	N	T	
H	C	R	E	A	A	A							
O	N	A	G	E	R	S	A	N	I	M	I	S	
P	R	A	D	C	L	R	O						
R	O	I	S	T	E	R	C	O	M	E	O	U	
I	N	O	O	R	A	B	I						
C	H	A	I	R	P	L	A	I	N	T	I	F	

STARS BY LILITH

The celestial quartet of Mercury, Venus, Uranus and the sun in stability-seeking Taurus directs this week's energies in search of sustainable solutions...



TAURUS THE BULL

ARIES: Generous Jupiter is reaching the end of its year-long stay in your money and assets sector and won't be back for more than another decade, so attention to financial affairs pays off this week. Chiron is also urging you to mend something broken, to integrate something that's been separated.

TAURUS: While Jupiter gives its final blessing to your sign for another decade or so, ask yourself what lessons has the growth planet gifted you over the past year? And if unpredictable Uranus throws you a curveball this week, consider how you could use it to fuel some bold new moves.

GEMINI: Jupiter visits your sign every twelve years, and it's on its way. Your celestial mentor Mercury, currently in Gemini's sector of closure, makes this an ideal week to decide what's run its course in your life, and make an invitational space to welcome the planet of expansion and largesse.

CANCER: As Jupiter, the giant planet of growth and expansion, finishes completing its once-in-a-lifetime conjunction with Uranus, the planet of progress, change and surprise in the earthy sign of nature and economics, be alert for this week's unexpected openings and new opportunities.

LEO: Lively, mid-week moon in Leo invites you to add a dash of dramatic spice to anything that might feel a bit ho-hum or lacklustre this week. To jazz up your branding and personal presentation, revamp your business profile and restyle your social invitations so they're simply irresistible.

VIRGO: As the heat and dust settle from Mercury's journey through its most volatile placement, your mentor planet heads into its favourite planning transit in a sensible fellow earth sign. Virgos do love a plan, and the weekend Virgo moon offers this week's prime time for making them.

LIBRA: If some part of your life has been in a holding pattern, this week's cruisy Venus and changemaker Uranus could refresh a same-old, same-old, scenario with new possibilities. Don't hesitate to think outside the box for a completely different approach that isn't rushed or stressful, and proceeds easily.

SCORPIO: Mars in Aries is ready for action, wants to do everything right now. But Venus brings a reminder this week that happiness is not about doing more, being busier. Venus likes to take it easy and savour the simple pleasures of life, and when Venus is satisfied, everyone's content.

SAGITTARIUS: With your mentor planet Jupiter about to make its annual move, this year from your career and health sector, savvy Sagittarians would benefit from using this week to get workplace issues sorted and affairs in order, to schedule medical checkups and put a wellness routine in place.

CAPRICORN: Since your last birthday, three major astrological themes have been at play: the first activating a retrospective life check. The second, a fundamental change of perspective about how to currently move forward in the world. The third sets your first steps on that new path this week.

AQUARIUS: There's something magical about the last days of the current Jupiter/Uranus alignment. Uranus brings exciting surprises, while Jupiter assures that whatever Uranus has in store will have a positive side. So pay attention to this week's signs, synchronicities and coincidences, because they'll be significant.

PISCES: Saturn takes around 30 years to make a full revolution through the zodiac, and the great benefit of the celestial life coach presently residing in your sign is an increased ability to deal with life's more challenging realities, and to approach this week's with intention and foresight.

health & healing



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Mandy is a qualified naturopath with eight years of experience working in a community health setting. She is warm, approachable and treats you as an individual rather than a 'disease' or 'condition'. Mandy works with you to formulate a treatment plan that is tailored to your situation and addresses the cause of symptoms. This generally includes diet and lifestyle recommendations, herbal medicine and nutritional supplements, where necessary.



Mandy's approach combines traditional naturopathic knowledge with current evidence-based research. She works with you and in collaboration with your care team, to achieve your desired health outcomes. Mandy treats a wide range of conditions and has a particular interest in the areas of mental health (including neurodiversity), women's health and paediatrics.

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If there's one thing Byron College love doing, it's supporting their local community with all things education, in particular health and wellness education. Term 2 is full of options to support your emotional, physical and spiritual health.

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- Hypnosis: a three-day certification course to teach you basic hypnosis techniques.
- Herbal Medicine Making: learn to make your own healing plant powered herbal remedies.
- Forest Bathing: a nature-based practice aimed at reducing stress and promoting overall wellbeing.

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Andreas Embodiment supports LGBTQ+ men to experience meaningful, loving, and intimate connection to themselves, like-minded men, and to their spirit.

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www.andreasembodiment.com
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health & healing

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Check out Gaia's online listing for an exclusive 25% discount for the Byron Bay community at the Gaia Day Spa.

02 6687 1670
www.gaiaretreat.com.au
healing.echo.net.au/listing/gaia-retreat



KATE MESSENGER CRYSTAL HEALING & KINESIOLOGY

Kate Messenger of Crystals & Dreaming has branched out into the fascinating and powerful modality of kinesiology. In addition to her beautiful Crystal Healing sessions, throughout May, Kate is offering Student Clinic prices on full 90-minute kinesiology sessions in the lead up to her final certification.

Your body remembers everything that has happened to you and stores experiences and emotional responses in its cellular memory. Using muscle testing and a wide range of healing tools and techniques, Kate taps into your body's biocomputer to process and clear issues creating pain or imbalance. Physical and emotional pain relief, emotional and postural stress release, increased flexibility and ability to clear emotional trigger responses are just some of the incredible benefits of these sessions.

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0413 003 301
www.crystalsanddreaming.com.au
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byron healing

www.byronhealing.com.au

UPCOMING BYRON HEALING CLIENT EVENTS

Weekend Reset Retreat Byron Bay

Held by: Byron Bay Detox Retreats
Dates: Friday, 17 to Monday, 20 May
Address: Blue Green Sanctuary Byron Bay
Contact: info@byronbaydetoxretreats.com.au

Digest Your Best: Foundations of a Healthy Gut

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Saturday, 18 May
Time: 9-4pm
Address: Mullum Campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au/course-category/health-and-wellbeing/

Hypnosis-3 Day Certification Course

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Saturday, 18 May (3 x Sats)
Time: 1-8pm
Address: Online training
Contact: byroncollege.org.au/course-category/health-and-wellbeing/

Transforming Health Public Lecture

Held by: National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine
Date: Wednesday, 22 May
Time: 5.30-8.30pm
Address: Byron Theatre
Contact: www.scu.edu.au/national-centre-for-naturopathic-medicine/events/byron-public-lecture/

Herbal Medicine Making

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Saturday, 25 May

Time: 9am-4:00pm
Address: Mullum Campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au/course-category/health-and-wellbeing/

Floorwork Dance Workshop with Aye Torres

Held by: Body Language Byron Bay
Date: Saturday, 25 May
Time: 10am-12pm
Address: Byron Studio
Booking: mومence.com/s/102043114

Therapeutic Adjustments & Somatic Body Reading

Held by: Body Language Byron Bay
Date: Sunday, 26 May
Time: 10am-1pm
Address: Byron Studio
Booking: mومence.com/s/101311601

Reiki Level 1

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Saturday, 25 and Sunday, 26 May
Time: 10am-4pm
Address: Mullum Campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au/course-category/health-and-wellbeing/

Byron Bay Detox Retreats Signature Retreat

Held by: Byron Bay Detox Retreats
Address: Byron Bay
Dates: Sunday, 26 May to Saturday, 1 June and Sunday, 28 July to Saturday, 3 August
Contact: info@byronbaydetoxretreats.com.au

Forest Bathing Outing

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Saturday, 1 June
Time: 9am-12:30pm
Address: Booyong Nature Reserve / Mullum Campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au/course-category/health-and-wellbeing/

The Art of Seduction: Embodied Lap Dance Workshop

Held by: Body Language Byron Bay
Date: Saturday, 1 June
Time: 10am-12pm
Address: Byron Studio
Booking: mومence.com/s/101989162

Pole Art Choreography (all levels) with Brianna Pearl

Held by: Body Language Byron Bay
Date: Sunday, 2 June
Time: 10am-11:30am
Address: Byron Studio
Booking: mومence.com/s/101684996

Surfer Wellness: Pain-Free Back & Neck with Cibele Pinhero

Held by: Body Language Byron Bay
Date: Saturday, 8 June
Time: 10am-12pm
Address: Byron Studio
Booking: mومence.com/s/102261190

Pole Fit (advanced spin & static tricks) Workshop with Chrissie Jackson

Held by: Body Language Byron Bay

Date: Saturday, 15 June
Time: 10-11.30am
Address: Byron Studio
Booking: mومence.com/s/101669675

Exotic Pole Choreography (all levels) with Carmen Medina

Held by: Body Language Byron Bay
Date: Saturday, 29 June
Time: 10-11.30am
Address: Byron Studio
Booking: mومence.com/s/101684995

Hypnosis 3 day Certification Course

Held by: Judith Asal
Dates: Friday, 12 to Sunday, 14 July
Time: 1-8pm
Online via Zoom
www.judith-asal.de/en/hypnosis-training/

Pole Fit (advanced spin & static tricks) Workshop with Chrissie Jackson

Held by: Body Language Byron Bay
Date: Saturday, 13 July
Time: 10-11.30am
Address: Byron Studio
Booking: mومence.com/s/101669677

Inter-Adv Pole Workshop with Phoebe

Held by: Body Language Byron Bay
Date: Saturday, 27 July
Time: 10-11am
Address: Byron Studio
Booking: mومence.com/s/101798688





SEVEN

entertainment

Volume 38 #49
 15-21 May, 2024
 Editor: Eve Jeffery
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 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
 Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
 P: 02 6684 1777
 W: echo.net.au/entertainment



Cass Eager

BABY, IT'S CHILLY OUTSIDE

Three Lords and the **Byron Theatre** are presenting a special performance of the 1983 classic film *The Big Chill* on **Saturday, May 26**. The show includes a concert performance of the soundtrack by **The Byron Theatre Orchestra**, along with food trucks, cocktails and perhaps the odd bit of audience participation.

The Big Chill soundtrack features classic soul from Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, The Miracles, Procol Harum, and more.

The Byron Theatre Orchestra is a collaboration between some of The shire's most in-demand musicians: **Cass Eager, Harry Nichols, Dan Brown, Mike Mills** and **Dave**

Sanders, and before the film gets underway on Byron's largest screen, the band will be grooving its way through the songs from the film to set the right mood.

The Big Chill is about a circle of old college friends reuniting at the funeral of one of their own, who has committed suicide. They spend the weekend together revisiting their past closeness. There is grief, sex, and one-liners, but what *The Big Chill* is really about is how the idealism of our youth turns into materialism as we age. It's an all-time Hollywood classic and worth another watch on the big screen.

For more information and tickets, visit: www.byroncentre.com.au.

BEV KNOWS HOW TO MAKE A BOOB OF HERSELF

Some women make you feel good about yourself right to your marrow. **Bev Killick** is one of those women. She's not a cutesy storyteller, she's our Phyllis Diller, a graduate of the bold and brassy school of stand-up, delivering a non-stop energetic set every time. As soon as she blasts her way on stage, you know you're in for a treat.

Bev's ability to get a crowd laughing non-stop each and everytime, came to the attention of the producers of the worldwide sensation *Puppetry of the Penis*. They offered Bev the opportunity to travel with the show as their opening act. Bev jumped at the offer and travelled around Australia performing to more than 250,000 people.

For a while Bev's life became all about boobs after she landed a role in the much-aired Berlei ad – the Uplifting Tour of Australia. As a result of this she was asked to perform as a Bosom Buddy in the hit show *Busting Out!* making audiences across the globe laugh their tits off as she got her tits out.

Bev has worked with Weird Al Yankovic, Wayne Brady, and Gina Riley and Jane Turner as a guest cameo on *Kath and Kim*. She was a panel member on *Beauty and the Beast*, featured comic on *Stand Up Australia*, a special guest on the hit show *Pizza*, married her lighting guy on *Surprise Wedding*, beat the blokes on *Joker Poker*, performed three solo shows at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival (*Sic Women* earned her a Green Room Award nomination), and is always selected to perform in the prestigious female-only *Up Front* gala.

Bev Killick is a woman's woman. Get the girls together. When it comes to rejuvenation, this woman is better than botox!

Friday, 31 May at the Hotel Great Northern at 7.30pm. Tickets available on byroncomedyfest.com.



BYRON PREMIERE!

BILLABONG
 PRESENTS
 ETHAN EWING SETH MONIZ GRIFFIN COLAPINTO

TRILOGY
 NEW WAVE

SAT MAY 18
 BYRON THEATRE
 6.30PM

THE TOAD THE WHALE AND THE SUN

THE EPIC JOURNEY OF A QUANTUM SHIFT

WORLD PREMIERE

Screening of Dean Jefferys' epic 2-hour documentary, 8 years in the making.

The Psychedelic Toads the Whales and the Sun are offering insights to assist humanity during these critical times of a quantum shift in consciousness.

Byron Community Centre ~ 31st May
 Nimbin Bush Theatre ~ 8th June

To watch the trailer and get tickets see:
www.toadwhalesun.com

BYRON THEATRE

MAY 25

BYRON THEATRE AND THREE LORDS PRESENT:
 THE BIG CHILL LIVE
 FILM SCREENING
 LIVE MUSIC
 VIBE

BYRON THEATRE .COM

SPARK

BACK, BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER

Stone & Wood's annual **Festival of the Stone** is back, bigger and better than ever on **Saturday, 1 June**. This year is shaping up to be a huge celebration of community, music and delicious food – all for a good cause.

Through their friends at Ingrained Foundation, a percentage of profits on the night will be donated to Fletcher St Cottage, a local Byron Bay charity.

This year, Stone & Wood is proud to bring you a killer lineup, doubling down on the music to bring you some massively talented local, and well-known acts with **Beddy Rays, Dan Sultan, Verge Collection, The Beefs, AKA Lui, and Mid Drift**.

Stone & Wood Brand Manager, Pat Coulson, says it's a really important time to support Australian music, events and our community in the current environment. 'We are more

excited than ever to bring the festival to life again this year!'

The festival is also a celebration of an annual tradition – the brewing of Stone Beer – and marks the first tapping of the keg. A cosy wood fired porter, Stone Beer is a nod to medieval brewing, a tradition held dear for the last 17 years since Stone & Wood's beginnings.

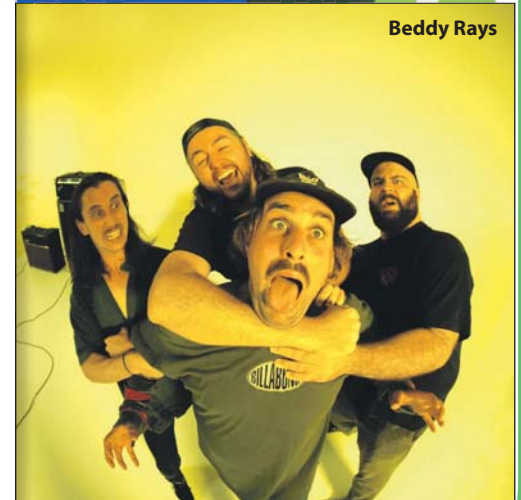
Stone & Wood also believe that as the weather gets cooler, it is even more important to support rough sleepers through Fletcher St Cottage. They provide essential services, wraparound support and hope, empowering Northern Rivers locals who are experiencing homelessness.

The Festival of the Stone, which sells out yearly, will see 2,000 people enter the brewery gates for an old-fashioned boogie, complete with food trucks, fresh beer, and the designated kids area, Malt Disney.



'Mid Drift and Beddy Rays were both scheduled to play at Splendour and we're stoked to have them on our line-up,' says Coulson. 'This is also a great opportunity for us to work with local suppliers and bar staff who are normally working on other festivals around town.'

The event kicks off on Saturday, 1 June, from 3pm-10pm at Stone & Wood Brewery at 100 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay. Tickets are now on sale from Stone & Wood.com.au and Eventbrite via the Stone & Wood website: eventbrite.com.au/e/festival-of-the-stone-2024-tickets-894987019267.



Chancha Via Circuito

HOLA AMIGXS!

Organisers are really excited to announce the second installment of the Mahico Festival at the home of the Blues Festival, **The Green Room**, on **Saturday, June 8**, over the King's birthday long weekend.

Mahico is a world electronic music festival celebrating cultures around the globe. Creating experiences of connection through music, art and food. Headlining the festival are two of the pioneers of the folktronica sound, **Chancha Via Circuito** and **Barrio Lindo**, hailing from the distant lands of Argentina. Mahico is also very excited and humbled to be touring and hosting two of South America's most prolific and well-known downtempo music producers, bringing their magic to the Northern Rivers for a 10-hour music extravaganza.

In support they have none other than local legend and Mahico mainstay **Moontide** (live), an amigo who has been making waves in New Zealand for the past decade; **Mia Kober**, Isu Taki creator hailing from Chile; **Ototongo**; and Mahico curator and resident **Xuja**.

Find out more at and get limited first release tickets on mahico.com.au/events/mahico-festival-june-2024

BYRON COMEDY FESTIVAL • 30 MAY – 1 JUNE 2024

Lewis Garnham
Thursday 7:00 - 8:00pm



Bev Killick
Friday 7:30 - 8:30pm



Ivan Aristeguieta
Friday 9:00 - 10:00pm



Comedy Showcase
Friday 6:00pm - 7:00pm



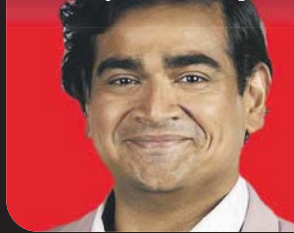
Best of British
Saturday 5:00 - 6:00pm



Scout Boxall
Saturday 6:30 - 7:30pm



Dilruk Jayasinha
Saturday 8:00 - 9:00pm



John Cruikshank
Saturday 9:15 - 10:15pm



Friday Night Pass
3 big shows
\$85 (valued at \$110)
Saturday Night Pass
4 super shows
\$125 (valued at \$145)

Detour Sold Out Shows with a Nightly Pass

Tix on sale now - byroncomedyfest.com
THE GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL

2024 Sponsors



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We Like To Tiki



ONCE UPON A TIME

Local artist **Michelle Ansoul's** sepia-toned photographic prints reflect moments of her hometown Byron Bay over the course of four decades in the exhibition 'Once Upon A Time'. These large-scale works, printed on cotton rag, evoke a sense of nostalgia and engross viewers in coastal landscapes, fostering a timeless bond with the environment. Inspired by Belongil Beach, the 'Salt Print Series', emerged during a vivid summer, using extracted salt and silver nitrate to create light-sensitive paper. These Byron Bay salt prints blend natural elements with scientific inquiry and a sustainable approach to photography.

Through the interplay of light, shadows, and chemical processes, negatives metamorphose into affirmatives, inviting viewers to interpret images through their own life experiences. Despite the intricacies of these methods, the heart of the work lies in staying attuned to the artist's creative journey and immersing oneself in the emotions evoked by life's visual narratives. This series, shot on analogue and printed on

fiber-based paper, digitally toned for a vintage aesthetic, aims to transport viewers across temporal frames, inviting them to dwell in the past, present, and eternal now.

See this fabulous show at **Gallery 3, Byron Bay, until Sunday.**



10 DAYS OF FAB FOOD

Caper Byron Bay Food & Culture Festival returns for its second iteration and kicks off **this Friday, running until Sunday, May 26** – and is there a lot to pack in.

It all begins with the official opening party hosted by the **Three Blue Ducks** with 12 other stand-out venues from the region serving signature dishes in canape form.

Within the first weekend alone there is: yum cha at **The Salty Mangrove**; 'Seaside Seafood Celebration' lunch at **Rae's on Wategos**; Argentinean open-fire barbeque with **Natural Order Wines** on the pour at **North Byron Hotel**; and the return of the sell-out 'Dinner & Show' at **Brunswick Picture House** – this year turning Arabian Nights themed with new local restaurant **The Smoking Camel**.

The week that follows sees a host of free events including a live music night at Treehouse and a string of fabulous food, drinks and entertainment at the North Byron Hotel. In fact there is no less than ten events happening at North Byron Hotel, the official watering hole of the festival, with an **extended happy hour every day from 3pm**. It's the hub of the festival with **live music and DJs**, a free gin picnic

with **Wandering Folk** and **Papa Salt Gin**, cheese and wine tasting with cheese maestros the **Stubb Siblings** and a free family day on **Saturday, May 25** with loads of entertainment for the kids.

If you're after something especially unique you can't go past Gin Fish with **Pips Plate** and **Papa Salt Gin** or the **Yakitori Party** at **Wandana Brewing Co.** with **Trouble San** and **Moonlight Restaurants** – just \$15 entry and free for the kids. For long lunches you can't beat **Beach Byron Bay** 'Farm to Beach' lunch or **Harvest Newrybar** 'Ode to Autumn' lunch, both three courses and including a drink on arrival.

The festival concludes with an Aperitivo party at **The Hut** and Tiki themed official closing party on **Sunday, May 26** at North Byron Hotel with four guest chefs including the festival food curator **Louis Tikaram** and head chef of **Serai Melbourne, Ross Magnaye**, winner of Gourmet Traveller Restaurant of the year 2023.

Events are selling out so get in quick and secure your tickets before you miss out.

Visit caperbyronbay.com for more information.



Looking to kickstart your musical career?

You need to be part of BaySounds, the Northern Rivers own songwriting competition – a joint initiative from SAE University College Byron Bay and BayFM to give our local talent the exposure you guys deserve.

Send us your best original track and you could win a professional recording opportunity and headlining spot at SAE's Open Day. PLUS have your music played on BayFM and promoted across our socials.

Entries close June 16th. Head to sae.edu.au/baysounds.



16 MAY - 5 JUNE

GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL 2024

PRESENTED BY PALACE IN COOPERATION WITH german 7C films

OPENS TOMORROW

OPENING NIGHT

FROM HILDE, WITH LOVE
IN LIEBE, ERBE HILDE

CENTREPIECE

FOREIGN LANGUAGE
LANGUE ÉTRANGÈRE

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GALLERY 3 BYRON BAY
Photography Exhibition

Once upon a time
Michelle Ansoul 10-19th MAY

- Eco Belongil Beach Salt Prints
- Large Scale Limited Edition Prints

OPEN
WED-SUN 3-5PM

Private Viewings
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GIG GUIDE

It's free to list your gigs in the gig guide.
 e: gigs@echo.net.au
 w: echo.net.au/gig-guide.
 DEADLINE 5PM ON FRIDAYS



CINEMA



THE TOAD, THE WHALE AND THE SUN

Filmmaker and environmental activist **Dean Jefferys** will be hosting the world premiere of his epic feature documentary *The Toad, the Whale and the Sun*, at the **Byron Community Centre** on **Friday, 31 May at 5pm** and again at **8pm**, with a panel discussion and **Q+A** after both screenings.

This extraordinary documentary has been eight years in the making. It explores a vision that Dean had, that the toads, the whales and the sun are offering insights to assist humanity to achieve a quantum shift in consciousness in these critical times.

'I invite people to embark on a mystical journey with me as we explore the secrets of the universe through the use of the most powerful psychedelic known to humanity: 5 MeO-DMT from the Sonoran Desert toad in Mexico, also known as Bufo alvarius,' says Jefferys. 'Discover the role this sacrament plays in humanity's healing and awakening. This eight-year expedition of the soul, includes interdimensional ceremonies in the Sonoran Desert and the ancient sun-worshipping temples of the Mayan and Aztec civilisation.'

A Byron local, Dean has been an activist for over 40 years. His previous documentary *Shamans of the Amazon*, was one of the first documentaries made about ayahuasca over 25 years ago and has become a cult classic.

Dean invites people to come on an epic sailing adventure on marine conservation yacht, Migaloo 2, through tropical waters with the humpback whale migration and experience the power of the toad ceremony with the whales and the sun. 'We will unlock the messages of the great ancestors of the ocean, and our galactic messenger, the sun and gain insight into the role they play in catalysing humanity's evolution. We are at a crossroads. You will learn about how global power structures, fear and technology are being used as weapons of control and witness a rising sovereignty movement that seeks to empower individuals to bring about positive change.'

With breathtaking cinematography and an expert team of mystics, *The Toad, the Whale, and the Sun* is an immersive experience that will challenge your beliefs and inspire you to take positive action.

The documentary is 1 hour 53 minutes long and will also screen at Nimbin on 8 June. To see the trailer and get tickets see www.toadwhalesun.com or the Byron Community Centre website, byroncentre.com.au.

WEDNESDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OOZ**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX BOWEN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

THURSDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MATT BUGGY DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **CARACOL 6PM + DJ G-MEN**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OLE FALCOR**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **MATT HILL**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 5.30PM **AMATEUR CLASSICAL MUSIC EVE**

FRIDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BULLETPROOF**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **DJ ZAC EWING**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MATTY ROGERS + ISAAC FRANKHAM TRIO**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **CONCRETE GOLD WITH LOOSE GOOSE & EYESITE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **CALLUM CREELMAN**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN 8PM **DJ NIGHT FEAT. RUSSTEE, HALO & JUSTTIM**

SATURDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **EPIC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 9PM **JEROME WILLIAMS BAND**
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM **TRILOGY: NEW WAVE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JORDAN MAC + NATHAN KAYE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **ANDY V MUSIC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 5PM **ROCK THE CASBAH**

SUNDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **GOODRICH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **EPIC + DAN NORTHEY**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JOCK BARNES + DJS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **MASON RACK BAND**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 5PM **ROCK THE CASBAH**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **DJ DARLAN**
- LENNOX HOTEL 1PM **JORDAN MAC**

MONDAY 20

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **FELICITY LAWLESS**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARK USHER**

TUESDAY 21

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **AKOVA**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**

WEDNESDAY 22

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JAMEL BOUKABOU**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **HAYLEY GRACE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

HAVE YOU SENT US YOUR GIG?

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Submit your event to the Echo's free Gig Guide. Running in *The Echo* and online at echo.net.au.

Session Times Ballina Fair Cinema

Thurs, May 16 - Wed, May 22 47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

<p>IF (PG) (NFT) Daily except Sat: 10:20AM, 5:00PM. Sat: 10:20AM, 5:10PM</p> <p>KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (M) (NFT) Daily except Wed: 12:45PM, 3:50PM, 6:30PM. Wed: 12:45PM, 6:30PM</p> <p>KUNG FU PANDA 4 (PG) (NFT) Sat: 12:00PM, 2:00PM</p> <p>THE FALL GUY (M) (NFT) Daily except Sat, Wed: 12:15PM, 7:10PM. Sat: 12:30PM, 6:45PM. Wed: 12:15PM</p>	<p>THE TASTE OF THINGS (PG) (NFT) Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:00PM</p> <p>THE THREE MUSKETEERS DOUBLE FEATURE (M) (NFT) SPECIAL EVENT Sun: 2:00PM</p> <p>THE THREE MUSKETEERS: D'ARTAGNAN (M) (NFT) Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 10:30AM, 4:00PM, 6:45PM. Sat: 10:00AM, 4:00PM, 7:15PM. Sun: 11:55AM, 6:45PM. Wed: 10:30AM, 4:00PM, 7:15PM</p> <p>THE WAY, MY WAY (PG) (NFT) Daily except Sat: 10:10AM, 2:50PM. Sat: 10:00AM, 3:00PM</p>	<p>To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club!</p> <p>SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE</p>
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Palace Cinemas is proud to be preserving Ballina's cherished community cinema, where we'll continue bringing exceptional movie experiences to the vibrant Ballina audience!

Ballina Fair Shopping Centre FREE parking Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au
 *NFT = No Free Tickets

Session Times

Thurs, May 16 - Wed, May 22 108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

<p>SPECIAL SCREENINGS</p> <p>FROM HILDE, WITH LOVE (PG) (NFT) Daily except Thurs, Mon: 11:00AM, 3:15PM, 5:50PM. Thurs: 6:30pm arrival, 7:00PM.</p> <p>THE THREE MUSKETEERS DOUBLE FEATURE (M) (NFT) Sun: 2:00PM</p> <p>FAMILY FILMS</p> <p>GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE (PG) (NFT) Daily: 1:10PM</p> <p>IF (PG) (NFT) Daily: 11:10AM, 1:00PM, 2:00PM, 5:00PM</p> <p>KUNG FU PANDA 4 (PG) (NFT) Daily except Sun: 11:00AM, 3:40PM Sun: 11:00AM</p> <p>ALL FILMS</p> <p>BACK TO BLACK (M) (NFT) Daily except Thurs: 10:45AM, 6:00PM Thurs: 10:45AM, 8:40PM</p>	<p>CHALLENGERS (M) (NFT) Daily except Thurs, Mon: 11:00AM, 3:15PM, 5:50PM Thurs: 11:00AM, 3:15PM, 5:45PM Mon: 11:00AM, 3:15PM, 6:10PM</p> <p>CIVIL WAR (M) (NFT) Daily except Thurs: 8:30PM Thurs: 12:50PM, 8:30PM</p> <p>DUNE: PART TWO (M) (NFT) Daily: 7:15PM</p> <p>FREMONT (PG) (NFT) Daily except Sun: 1:40PM</p> <p>GOLDA (PG) (NFT) Daily except Thurs: 1:15PM Thurs: 10:45AM, 1:15PM</p> <p>KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (PG) (NFT) Daily: 11:00AM, 4:20PM, 7:15PM</p> <p>MONSTER (M) (NFT) Daily except Mon: 8:20PM Mon: 8:45PM</p> <p>PERFECT DAYS (PG) (NFT) Daily except Thurs: 8:40PM Thurs: 3:10PM</p>	<p>TAROT (M) (NFT) Daily except Thurs, Mon: 8:30PM Thurs: 8:20PM Mon: 8:40PM</p> <p>THE FALL GUY (M) (NFT) Daily: 10:45AM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM</p> <p>THE TASTE OF THINGS (PG) (NFT) Daily except Sun: 2:00PM, 5:45PM Sun: 2:00PM, 6:15PM</p> <p>THE THREE MUSKETEERS: D'ARTAGNAN (M) (NFT) Daily: 11:20AM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM</p> <p>THE WAY, MY WAY (PG) (NFT) Fri, Sat, Tues, Wed: 10:45AM, 4:10PM, 6:15PM, 8:40PM Mon: 10:45AM, 4:10PM, 5:50PM, 8:40PM</p> <p>WICKED LITTLE LETTERS (M) (NFT) Daily: 1:20PM, 3:30PM</p>
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For all sessions to the German Film Festival, please check online.
 Please check online for ALL films screening, Mercato Complex 3hrs FREE parking Validation for all Palace Cinemas customers. Session times subject to change - check web for most up to date sessions.
 *NFT = No Free Tickets.
 Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au



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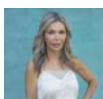
9 Rosewood Avenue, **Bangalow 2479**

5 3 2

- Five spacious bedrooms, two with ensuite bathrooms.
- Generous kitchen with a large walk-in pantry.
- Modern main bathroom with free standing bath.
- Light-filled open plan dining-living area with fireplace.
- Wrap around verandah which flows to main living area and kitchen, offering a north-east aspect and picturesque views.

Price Guide: \$1.9m

Sandy Jovanovski :
0406 429 550



<https://www.gnfrealestate.com.au/>



GNF
real estate



151 Burnetts Road, **Nashua 2479**

4 2 2

- Elevated ridgeline location with sweeping views
- 80 acres lush macadamia farmland
- Beautifully restored homestead
- Separate studio accommodation
- School bus run, substantial shed, amazing mornings and spectacular sunsets.
- Multiple machinery sheds
- 10 mins to Bangalow and 25 mins to Byron Bay

Price Guide: \$4.995m - \$5.2m

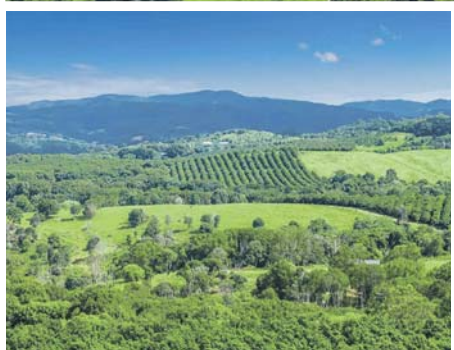
Chris Hayward:
0416 005 700



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GNF
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201 Federal Drive, **Federal 2480**

4 2 6

- A beautiful near level property includes a substantial well presented brick residence featuring four generous bedrooms, office, separate lounge room and spacious rumpus room
- A well appointed kitchen flows onto large outdoor entertaining area perfect for social gatherings overlooking an inground swimming pool and landscaped maintenance free gardens
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Price Guide: \$2,695,000

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5 3 2

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- Light filled with lofty raked ceilings, celestary windows framing the sky and trees and a great sense of space
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Price Guide: \$2.5m - Offers Considered

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PRICE | \$2.5M - \$2.75M
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14 OMEGA CIRCUIT, BRUNSWICK HEADS



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- Short drive to Brunswick Heads and beaches

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Sat 18th May 12 - 12:30pm



Denzil Lloyd
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3 1 2 2 664M²

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PRICE | \$1.05M - \$1.15M
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Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698

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4 2 4 3 612M²

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PRICE | \$4.25M - \$4.5M
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Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
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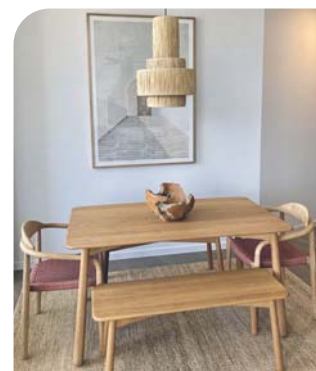


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- 8 Pecan Court, Suffolk Park. Thurs 10-10.30am
- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 13 Cavanbah Lane, Byron Bay. Thurs 12-12.30pm
- 30 Kennedys Lane, Ewingsdale. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 27 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 3.15-3.45pm
- 257 Whian Road, Eureka. Fri 12-12.15pm
- 154 Waltons Road, Federal. Fri 1-1.15pm
- 41 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Fri 3-3.30pm
- 58 Butler Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 240 The Manse Road, Myocum. Sat 9-9.30am
- 3/7 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30-10am
- 1/49 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30-10am
- 12/18 Mahogany Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3 Sunrise Crescent, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 24 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1/122 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 12/10 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 326 Booyong Road, Nashua. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Sat 10-10.30am
- 25 Caniaba Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 10.30-11am
- 2B/107 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 11 Dalmacia Drive, Wollongbar. Sat 11-11.30am
- 1/2-6 Cemetery Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 44 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 41 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am
- 6 Victor Place, Lennox Head. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 4 Azolla Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 59 Taylors Road, Eureka. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 124 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 47 Teak Circuit, Suffolk Park. Sat 12-12.30pm

- 14 Omega Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 22 Karalauren Court, Lennox Head. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 13 Coral Court, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 371 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 50 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 2-2.30pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 2 Barnwell Street, Cumbalum. Sat 9.45-10.15am
- 337 Hermans Lane, Pimlico. Sat 10-10.30am
- 65 Lindsay Avenue, Cumbalum. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 26 Bridge Street, Wardell. 11-11.15am
- 19 Hickey Street, Ballina. 11.45-12.15pm
- 15 Plumeria Street, Goonellabah. 12.15-12.45pm

Mana Real Estate

- 2261 Big River Way, Ulmarra. Thurs 3-3.45pm
- 2/1 Durroon Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 5 Kiah Close, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 119 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 9.30-10am
- 16 Eloura Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 48 Orana Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 7 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 26 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 9 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 247 Gulgan Road, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 28 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 1-1.30pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 53 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 69 Brushbox Drive, Mullumbimby Creek. Sat 10-10.30 am
- 21 Fig Tree Lane, Myocum. Sat 10-10.30am
- 71 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- Units 1-5, 56B Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 62 Possum Creek Road, Bangalow. Sat 11-11.30am
- 79 Robinsons Road, Wilsons Creek. Sat 11-11.45am
- 10 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 195 Old Byron Bay Road, Newrybar. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 3 Raftons Road, Bangalow. Sat 12.30-1 pm

North Coast Lifestyle

- 185 KIELYS ROAD, MOOBALL. Saturday, 11-11.30am
- 59 TUCKEROO AVENUE, MULLUMBIMBY. Saturday 11-11.45am
- 284 THE POCKET ROAD, THE POCKET. Saturday, 12.30pm-1.00pm

Ray White Byron Bay

- 1/33 Shelley Drive, Byron Bay. Wed 2-2.30pm
- 3/137 Broken Head Reserve Road, Broken Head. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 20/11 Constellation Close, Byron Bay. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 20 Ribbonwood Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1/33 Shelley Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 11 Greenview Place, Skennars Head. Sat 10.30-11am
- 4 Old Byron Bay Road, Newrybar. Sat 11-11.30am
- 20 Ribbonwood Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.15-11.45am

- 75 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 3/137 Broken Head Reserve Road, Broken Head. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 23 & 23A Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 109-111 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 898 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 346 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Sat 2-2.30pm

Ruth Russell Realty

- 41 Prince Street Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11:45 am

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 25 Smith Street, Clunes. Sat 9.15-9.45am
- 25 Main Street, Clunes. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1 Flatley Drive, Clunes. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 4 Coachwood Court, Federal. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 20 Byron Creek Road, Coopers Shoot. Sat 1-1.30pm

New Listings

MANA RE

- 2261 Big River Way, Ulmarra
- 5 Kiah Close, Ocean Shores
- 48 Orana Road, Ocean Shores

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 103 Goonengerry Mill Road, Goonengerry
- 3 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby
- 503 The Pocket Road, The Pocket
- 284 The Pocket Road, The Pocket



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INDEX

Accounts & Bookkeepers.....32	Painting.....34
Acupuncture32	Pest Control34
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration.....32	Photography.....34
Architects32	Physiotherapy.....34
Automotive.....32	Picture Framing34
Blinds, Awnings, Curtains, Shutters.32	Plastering34
Bricklaying.....32	Plumbers34
Building Trades32	Pool Services.....34
Carpentry & Joinery32	Religious Services34
Chimney Sweeps32	Removalists34
Cleaning32	Roofing.....35
Computer Services33	Rubbish Removal35
Concreting & Paving.....33	Self Storage35
Decks, Patios & Extensions.....33	Septic Systems35
Design & Drafting.....33	Smart Farming.....35
Driveway Maintenance.....33	Solar Installation35
Earthmoving & Excavation.....33	Television Services35
Electricians33	Tiling35
Fencing.....33	Transport35
Floor Sanding & Polishing.....33	Tree Services35
Furniture Maker33	Truck Hire & Haulage.....35
Garden & Property Maintenance.....33	Upholstery35
Gas Fitters & Suppliers.....34	Valuers35
Guttering.....34	Veterinary Surgeons.....35
Handypersons.....34	Water Filters35
Health34	Welding.....35
Hire34	Window Cleaning and Repairs35
Landscape Supplies.....34	Window Tinting35
Landscaping34	
Locksmith34	

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Members work collaboratively in 'Conferences' and meet together regularly to discuss their work and monitor and discuss local needs and injustices. Through their work, members gain a deeper understanding of their own spiritual journey by seeing Christ in the face of the vulnerable. It is demanding but rewarding work.

We continue the work of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam who at 20 years of age and while at university, formed the St Vincent de Paul Society in Paris together with 6 friends, supported by Sr Rosalie Rendu. In becoming a member, you will support local people, meet like-minded people and learn new skills.

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1st SAT Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415	5th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764
1st SUN Byron Bay	02 6685 6807	5th SUN Lennox Head	02 6685 6807
1st SUN Lismore Car Boot	02 6628 7333	FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS	
2nd SUN The Channon	02 6688 6433	Each TUE New Brighton	0424 168 672
2nd SUN Lennox Head	02 6685 6807	Each TUE Organic Lismore	02 6636 4307
2nd SUN Chillingham	0428 793 141	Each WED Murwillumbah 7-11	0415 328 672
2nd SUN Coolangatta		Each WED Nimbin 3-6pm	0418 940 653
2nd SUN Tabulam		Each WED Newrybar Hall 4-7pm	
3rd SAT Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370	Each THU Byron 8-11am	0414 595 169
3rd SAT Murwillumbah	0415 328 672	Each THU Lismore 2.30-6.30pm	0459 309 223
3rd SAT Salt Village Market, Casuarina		Each FRI Mullum 7-11am	0424 168 672
3rd SUN Federal	0433 002 757	Each SAT Bangalow 8-11am	0414 595 169
3rd SUN Uki	0487 329 150	Each SAT Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)	
3rd SUN Ballina	0422 094 338	Each SAT Uki 8am-1pm	02 6679 5438
4th SAT Evans Head	0432 275 765	Each SAT Lismore 8.30-11am	
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar kyoglebazaar.com.au		Each SAT Wadeville 8.30am-12pm	
4th SUN Bangalow	02 6687 1911	Each SAT Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr	
4th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764	Each SUN Ballina 7-11am	
4th SUN Murwillumbah	0415 328 672		
4th SUN Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)			

The Echo updates this guide regularly, however sometimes markets change their routine without letting us know. Please get in touch if you want to advise us of a change.

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KOALA HOTLINE	6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service	6628 1898

SUN, MOON & TIDES
- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (May)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
15	W	6:21 12:32 17:03 23:31	12:32 14:38 14:38 1:06	0135 1.53 1438 1.06	0841 0.61 1947 0.73
16	TH	6:22 13:03 17:02	13:03 15:46 15:46 1:14	0234 1.47 1546 1.14	0932 0.59 2106 0.75
17	F	6:22 13:31 17:02	13:31 16:42 16:42 1:24	0332 1.44 1642 1.24	1018 0.55 2216 0.72
18	SA	6:23 13:57 17:01	13:57 17:28 17:28 1:35	0425 1.42 1728 1.35	1057 0.50 2315 0.68
19	SU	6:23 14:23 17:01	14:23 18:07 18:07 1:46	0513 1.41 1807 1.46	1131 0.45
20	M	6:24 14:50 17:00	14:50 18:44 18:44 1:57	0555 1.40 1844 1.57	0004 0.63 1201 0.41
21	TU	6:25 15:19 17:00	15:19 19:20 19:20 1:66	0634 1.37 1920 1.66	0049 0.58 1231 0.37
22	W	6:25 15:52 16:59	15:52 19:56 19:56 1:73	0713 1.34 1956 1.73	0131 0.54 1301 0.35
23	TH	6:26 16:29 16:59	16:29 20:33 20:33 1:78	0751 1.30 2033 1.78	0214 0.50 1333 0.34
24	F	6:26 16:59 16:59	17:14 21:13 21:13 1:81	0830 1.26 2113 1.81	0256 0.48 1407 0.34
25	SA	6:27 17:06 16:58	18:06 21:53 21:53 1:82	0911 1.22 2153 1.82	0340 0.47 1444 0.36
26	SU	6:27 17:06 16:58	19:05 22:37 22:37 1:80	0955 1.18 2237 1.80	0428 0.48 1525 0.39
27	M	6:28 17:06 16:58	20:09 23:25 23:25 1:77	1045 1.15 2325 1.77	0519 0.48 1611 0.44
28	TU	6:28 17:06 16:57	21:16 24:01 24:01	1141 1.13	0614 0.49 1705 0.50
29	W	6:29 17:06 16:57	22:23 24:46 24:46	0017 1.73 1246 1.14	0711 0.49 1809 0.55

Data sourced from Bureau of Meteorology. Times adjusted for Daylight Savings when applicable.

Locals take state awards at Byron Bay Triathlon

The Byron Tri Club had a successful Byron Triathlon despite the waterlogged conditions last Saturday.

Not only did the club as a whole gain maximum points to likely seal their superiority in the North Coast Interclub League for another year, but eight members were able to win their age groups to take out state championships on the day as well.

'The Byron Triathlon was a true test of endurance and determination for all participants,' Byron Tri Club's Deb Fuller said.

'Heavy rain poured down, creating cold and miserable conditions. The daunting sight of the ocean, with its strong current making it difficult to reach and see the first buoy, added to the initial apprehension.

'Navigating through mud in transition areas and encountering huge puddles on the run course only added to the physical and mental challenges.

'Despite the conditions, the results of the event were nothing short of impressive,' she said.

Byron Bay was selected by Triathlon NSW as the venue for the Sprint Triathlon NSW State Championships 2024,



Nerida and Peter Clarke, with state championship medals, showed that age is no barrier to success. Photo supplied

as part of their initiative to rotate events across the state each year. Participation in the state awards is exclusive to members of Triathlon Australia.

Sprint distance (750m swim, 20km cycle, 5km run) Triathlon NSW State Championship winners from the Byron Tri Club included: Jaime Cascajares (40-44 male), Greg Allan (35-39 male), Cara Brisbane (40-44

female), Huw Jones (60-64 male), Gracie Richter (25-29 women), Deb Fuller (60-64 female), Peter Clarke (75-79 male), and Nerida Clarke (70-74 female).

In the Olympic distance (1.5km swim, 40km cycle, 10km run) Byron Tri Club results included: Atsushi Yunagida first (45-49 male), Larissa Whitton second (30-34 female) and Eric Blyth-Elvin 29th (35-39 male).

Northern rivers surfers help Australia win the World Junior Surfing Championships

Fingal Head surfer Dane Henry has won an individual gold to help Australia claim its eighth World Junior Surfing Championship, its first in 15 years.

Gold Coast surfer Ziggy Mackenzie also won a gold for her performance in the U/16 division.

Lennox Head's Ocea Curtis was also part of the 12-person team that competed in El Salvador last week.

'This win represents where



Dane gets air on the world stage. Photo Jersson Barboza

Australian junior surfing is at, and the dominance we intend to continue to deliver,'

Kate Wilcomes, Surfing Australia's National High-Performance Director said.

Red Devils on fire at top of local rugby league

The Byron Bay Red Devils have made it four out of four across three grades for the 2024 NRRRL season after beating the Mullumbimby Giants playing a home last Sunday.

The first-graders won a tough game 14-10, while the reserves got up 26-16 following on from the U/18's 38-0 win. The rout got started by the ladies touch team that ran in winners 18-4.

First grade captain Ben Webber puts the whole-of-club success down to a super solid pre-season where everyone at the club was putting in extra effort. 'That supports where we are today,' he said.

'The club has really lifted as a whole, and we are also starting to see the juniors come through. We are starting to see some real depth in every game.'

The first grade encounter against Mullumbimby was hard fought. 'Mullumbimby



Solid defence from the Giants didn't stop the Red Devils scoring the winning try last Sunday. Photo Sarah Archbald

were definitely up for it. They are a really good outfit with a good forward pack who stuck it to us,' he said.

Despite letting in a 'soft try' off a penalty, the Red Devils proved their own resolve when they were able to defend their line for a 25-minute period.

Most importantly they were able to get the points they needed for the win.

Having the three tackle teams undefeated at this stage of the season is a rarity

that bodes well for the rest of the season.

But Ben is focussing on next week's game when the teams will travel to take on the Tweed Coast Raiders, who are yet to win a first-grade game this season.

The week after that Byron have a bye and automatically pick up two more competition points.

'Hopefully the town and everyone will get behind us so we can bring it back to the Bay,' he said.

Rainbow Dragons turn it on at Kalang regatta



The Rainbow Dragons had a big weekend at Urunga overcoming their adversaries but still finding time for enjoying some fine camaraderie. Photo supplied

The Rainbow Dragons (Lennox Head-Ballina) successfully competed in the Kalang Dragon Boat Regatta at Urunga earlier this month.

The first event was the 100m dash, where Rainbows placed third in a field of 14 clubs, followed by a second place in the 7.5km marathon.

'This was a testament to Rainbow's capacity to be strong in both long and sprint events,' coach, Brooke Harris said. 'Only two clubs finished the marathon in less than 40 minutes, the other being Ballina Dragon Boat Racing Club.'

On the second day of

racing the Rainbow Dragons went on to win the women's 20s boat and placed third in the women's 10 boat.

Kalang regatta is a favourite with the dragon boat community and it attracted 16 clubs from as far south as the NSW Central Coast up to Lennox Head.

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Echo photographer, Jeff Dawson, says, 'I'm not sure if combining the swim leg with the running leg was a success, but Richelle Hill, left in the photo, wasn't too fazed. This photo taken moments before she crossed the finish line as the first female in last weekend's Byron Triathlon's Olympic division'.



Time to paddle up! The Mullum to Bruns 10km paddle will be held Sunday May 26, starting at Mullum's Heritage Park and finishing at Banner Park in Bruns. For more info, visit www.mullum2brunspaddle.com.au. Photo Jeff Dawson

ICYMI \$3.8 million in taxes will go towards implementing a stepped care model to support more than 200 people left with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after the 2022 floods. Wouldn't it be ironic if those people said that reneged government promises for buybacks, retrofits and house raising were a major factor in their PTSD?

As per *The Echo's* public disclosure policy, thanks to the gentleman who dropped off a few bottles of vino to the editor last week. Grazie mille!

Mullum, Bruns and Bangalow are set to get tourist signage, says Transport for NSW, 'as part of a commitment to support those towns which were bypassed as part of the Pacific Motorway project'.

JP Morgan's Australian subsidiary have been hit by a \$775,000 fine by ASIC for 'permitting suspicious client orders to be placed on the futures market'. Or as Paul Keating might say, 'they were flogged by a wet lettuce'.

Byron Shire Council's community awards are open for nominations. To nominate outstanding individuals, groups, businesses, and organisations, visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au. Nominations close June 1.

FYI Telstra says it will extend its 3G network closure date until August 31 to give people more time to upgrade their devices.

The NSW government will add the capacity to their mobile phone detection cameras to detect non-seatbelt wearing persons from July 1.

Remember: You come from dust and you return to dust, that's why we shouldn't dust. You could be dusting someone you know.

The Byron Chamber will hold its quarterly open forum board meeting at the Byron Services Club, on May 23 from 6pm. Organisers say the free event provides a platform for bringing issues or concerns to the board, and is a chance to collaborate with other local businesses and the Chamber.

Have Federal Labor surrendered completely to the fossil fuel industry, or are they courageously making it easier for those who want a more breathable atmosphere to make their

decision at the upcoming election? See page 7, 13 for more info.

Your periodic reminder that *The Echo* does not necessarily support the views of its advertisers – see page 5.

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